Franklin Benjamin Hough,

PROCLAMATIONS

FOR

THANKSGIVING,

ISSUED BY THE

Continental Congress, Pres't Washington,

BY

THE NATIONAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

ON THE PEACE OF 1815,

AND BY THE

GOVERNORS OF NEW YORK

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CUSTOM;

WITH THOSE OF THE

GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL STATES

IN 1858.

WITH AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION AND NOTES.

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PREFACE.

THERE is an official document, issued by Executive Authority, in accordance with a "time-honored custom," and for a purpose that appeals to the religious and moral sentiments of the people, which finds no place in our public records, and, committed annually to the newspaper press, is soon lost to the public generally, with the fleeting items of the current news.

It contains no imperative order, and its observance is enforced by neither rewards nor penalties; but like a Herald of Peace, it invites us to lay aside the cares of life, and in good will towards all men and humble gratitude to the Benign Giver of All Blessings, to acknowledge with becoming reverence, and in a manner approved by our own consciences, our obligations for the many blessings of life.

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Whatever tends to strengthen the ties of kindred and friendship, or to promote offices of kindness and charity, claims the attention and favor of all good citizens; and among the very few usages which deserve the title of National Customs, our Thanksgiving festival may in this sense be ranked as first. As such, its origin and history are worthy of inquiry, and as an act of Civil Authority, the Proclamation for its observance may be deemed entitled to a more permanent form of record than the casual chances of the periodical press.

The in-gathering of the fruits of the earth, has from time immemorial, and among all nations, been a season of gladness; and with such as possessed definite views of their obligations to the Unseen Providence that governs the Universe, has been accompanied by such forms of devotion as were deemed most appropriate to express their gratitude for this bounty, and their dependence for its continuance. In like manner, special instances of national success, of preservation from impending calamities, or of relief from grievous afflictions, have been made the subjects of such form of Thanksgiving as the occasion might suggest, and calamities have been sought to be averted or

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removed by Public Fasting and Prayer. Among most civilized countries these occasions have been marked by public ordinances directing the time and manner of observance.*

We find at an early period of New England history, that special occasions of prosperity or calamity, were continually ascribed to the smiles or frowns of Providence, and often made the occasion of Public Thanksgiving or Fast; and the tone of religious sentiment which prevailed among the early Colonists, led in the infancy of their settlement, to the annual ob-

* Of the occasional Thanksgivings appointed by authority, in Great Britain, in modern times, may be noticed one held January 13, 1814, on account of the victories gained over Napoleon; and another Jan. 18, 1816, upon the restoration of peace. The Governor of Upper Canada ordered a Thanksgiving to be observed Feb. 6, 1838, upon the success of government in suppressing the *patriot* revolt; and a Thanksgiving was held throughout all India, on the 16th of July, 1854, on account of the success of the British troops. The 5th of November is marked in the English Church Service as an occasion for Public Thanksgiving, in commemoration of the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, and the 29th of May, for the restoration of Charles II, in 1660. The anniversary of the accession of the reigning sovereign to the throne, is also a solemn day.

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servance of each. The former was usually in autumn, and the latter in spring.*

The practice was not limited to the English

* The earliest Thanksgiving on record in the Colony of Massachusetts, was held on the 22d of February, 1631, under circumstances that are recorded as follows:

"But now as the winter "came on, provisions began "to be very scarce, upon the "grounds aforesaid, and peo- "ple were necessitated to "live upon clams, and mus- "cles, and ground-nuts, and "acorns, and these got with "much difficulty in the win- "ter-time. Upon which, peo- "ple were very much tired "and discouraged, especially "when they heard that the "Governor himself had the "last batch of bread in the "oven; and many were the "fears of people that Mr. "Pearce, who was sent to "Ireland to fetch provisions, "was cast away, or taken by "pirates. But God, who de- "lights to appear in greatest "straits, did work marvel- "lously at this time; for be- "fore the very day appointed "to seek the Lord by Fast- "ing and Prayer, about the "month of February or March "in comes Mr. Pearce, lad- "en with provisions. Upon "which occasion the day of "Fast was changed, and or- "dered to be kept as a day "of Thanksgiving; which "provisions were by the Go- "vernor distributed unto the "people, proportionable to "their necessities."—*Young's Chronicles of Massachusetts, p.* 385.

Between this date and 1685, the records of the Colony show twenty-nine orders for Thanksgiving, several of which are for specific, but most of them for general causes of gratitude to Providence.

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Colonies, but was in use in New Netherlands upon extraordinary occasions of public rejoicing.* In the Colony of New York, under the English government, occasional Thanksgivings were held.†

At an early period in the Revolution, the Continental Congress adopted the custom of invoking the Divine Favor by Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, and the days thus appointed were generally in the spring months. It always suspended its own sessions upon the days thus set apart, when the public exigencies would allow.‡

* Gov. Kieft ordered a Public Thanksgiving to be held in February, 1644, upon the occasion of a victory over the Indians in Westchester county, and in September, 1645, upon the conclusion of a peace with these people.

† See pages 1–3.

‡ Fast Days were appointed during the Revolution: Thursday, July 20, 1775, by resolution of June 12; Friday, May 17, 1776, by resolution of March 16; day to be fixed by the several states by resolution of December 11, 1776; Wednesday, April 22, 1778, by resolution of March 7; Thursday, May 6, 1779, by resolution of March 20; Wednesday, April 6, 1780, by resolution of March 11; Thursday, May 3, 1781, by resolution of March 20; Thursday, April 25, 1782, by resolution of March 19.

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A similar recommendation was issued once by President Washington, in May, 1792, by request of Congress; twice during the administration of the elder Adams, and on several occasions since.*

The Journals of the Continental Congress contain eight several appointments of Thanksgiving days, and the resolutions expressing the wishes of Congress upon this subject, were in the form of recommendations to the Executive heads of the State governments, reciting in appropriate terms, the occasion which prompted the observance, and the favors which a Benign Providence had conferred upon them as a people. With one exception, Congress suspended business upon the days it had appointed for Thanksgiving.

Governor Jay, at the beginning of his administration, issued a Proclamation, recommending a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, after the custom of the New England States, but the advice did not receive general attention or public favor. His political opponents seized upon the occasion, to represent it as a contrivance to en-

* See Journals of House of Representatives, May 1, 1792; Life and Writings of John Adams, ix, 169-172.

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list the religious prejudices of the public in his favor, and the opposition which it met dissuaded him from repeating it.

Although thus left without a public appointment, the People of this State were not entirely without guidance in the celebration of this observation. The Book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church, ratified in 1789, directs the first Thursday of November (unless another day be appointed by the civil authorities) "to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the fruits of the earth, and all other blessings of his Merciful Providence," and this day was accordingly observed by those of this denomination, in the absence of Executive appointment.

Many pious families in this State, of other denominations, were accustomed to observe the day appointed for Thanksgiving by the Governor of Connecticut, and several Christian denominations had adopted the custom of appointing a Thanksgiving Day, by the officers of churches, associations, presbyteries, and similar ecclesiastical bodies. The day thus set

* Hammond's Political History of New York, i, 446; Jenkins' Political History of New York, 196; Jay's Life and Writings, i, 385.

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apart, was not uniform throughout the State, and of course received no regard except among the sect by whom it was appointed.†

The official announcement of peace between

† The following is an example of these appointments by religious bodies. They were generally published in the newspapers, and read in churches:

"THANKSGIVING.

"Whereas the Northern "Associated Presbytery of "the State of New York, in "connection with other As- "sociations, have agreed an- "nually to observe the last "Thursday in November, as "a day of Public Thanksgiv- "ing, this is to notify all "the churches under the care "of said Presbytery, and the "congregations connected "with them, that Thursday, "the thirtieth day of the pre- "sent month, will be set "apart, through the bounds "of said Presbytery, as a "day of Public Thanksgiving "and Prayer to Almighty "God, to render thanks to "his great name for all the "blessings of the year past, "particularly for the effusion "of his holy spirit, poured "out in many parts of our "land, and more especially "upon our colleges and semi- "naries of literature, which "gives a hopeful prospect of "the advancement of the "Redeemer's kingdom in our "land.

"Signed by order of the "Presbytery.

"BERIAH HOTCHKIN,
"Moderator.

"Greenville, Nov. 6, 1815."

Perhaps the most remarkable Thanksgiving custom on record, prevailed in the towns of Southampton and Easthampton upon Long Island. Montauk Point consists of some nine thousand acres of land, owned by numerous

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the United States and Great Britain, was regarded by Congress and our State Legislature as an event demanding a public expression of gratitude to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and at the joint suggestion of the Executive and Legislative authorities, it was unanimously decided to celebrate the happy event by a Solemn Thanksgiving.

Governor De Witt Clinton soon after his entrance upon office, renewed the experiment which a predecessor had tried without success. The appointment received general approbation, and the practice has been since annually followed, sanctioned by no law but precedent, and sustained only by popular favor.

proprietors in these towns, and used as a common pasturage for their stock. The time of driving their herds upon the Point, and of taking them home to winter, was fixed annually at town meeting, and it came to be a rule, from a period beyond which the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, that the Thursday of the week following the return of the cattle from Montauk, should be observed as a day of Thanksgiving. The first appointment by Governor Clinton happened to fall upon a different date, and it was seriously discussed, whether the substitute should be accepted, or whether the secret intention might not be to unsettle and break up the custom altogether.

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It has become usual for the Mayor of New York City, to second the appointment of Thanksgiving Day made by the Governor, in a Proclamation of similar import,* and on seve-

* The following is his Proclamation for the present year:

"PROCLAMATION.

"Whereas the Governor "of the State, in accordance "with a time-honored and "most laudable custom, has "appointed Thursday, the "eighteenth day of Novem- "ber instant, to be observed "as a day of General Thanks- "giving and Prayer, now I, "Daniel F. Tiemann, Mayor "of the City of New York, "do hereby earnestly recom- "mend all good citizens to "unite on that day in Praise "and Thanksgiving to Al- "mighty God for all the great "and manifest blessings he "has bestowed in his good "providence on our city and "its inhabitants during the "past year. The commercial "panic which recently pros- "trated the trade and indus- "try of our city has subsid- "ed, and again the merchant "is busy, the mechanic em- "ployed, and the laborer has "work to do. The harvests "of the country have been "plenteous, affording to our "people the fruits of the "earth in abundance, so that "all can enjoy them. Pesti- "lence has not been permit- "ted to visit us, but beyond "any previous season has "our city enjoyed the bless- "ings of health. And even "the strifes of party have "served to the maintenance "of that Union by which we "as a people are secured in "our civil freedom and the "right to worship our Creat- "or according to the dictates "of our own consciences. "For these and other mani- "fold blessings and mercies,

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ral occasions the Bishops of the Episcopal and Catholic churches, have issued circulars to their several charges, prescribing forms of worship suitable to the occasion, and recommending the observance of the appointed day, with becoming religious solemnities.

This custom is now observed in nearly every State and organized Territory in the Union,*

"it is our duty at all times
"to be thankful to the Giver
"of All Good, but especially
"on a day thus set apart by
"the Chief Magistrate of the
"State for religious worship
"and praise.

"I would also recommend
"that on this occasion those
"who have been favored
"with prosperity, should im-
"part of their abundance to
"the needy, and thus by con-
"tributing to their comfort,
"and alleviating their dis-
"tress, honor their Creator,
"whose nature is divine be-
"neficence.

"In witness whereof, I
"have hereunto set my name
"and affixed the Mayoralty
"Seal of the City of
[L.S.] "New York, this ele-
"venth day of Novem-
"ber, in the year of our Lord
"one thousand eight hundred
"and fifty-eight.

"DANIEL F. TIEMANN."

* Diligent efforts have been made to obtain all the Proclamations for Thanksgiving issued by the several State and Territorial Governors for 1858, but still none have been received from Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and California, nor with the exception of Nebraska and Minnesota, from any of the Territories. In some of these, it

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and an examination of the following pages will show, that the Proclamation is commonly issued from the office of the Secretary of State under the Great Seal. In some cases it is ordered by advice of the Council, and in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania simply upon authority of the Governor under his Privy Seal, and attested by his Private Secretary.

In some of the States, Thanksgiving Day is sanctioned by the Statute law, and Courts may not be held or arrests made on the day appoint-

is believed, none were issued. In Virginia, the only one ever issued was that of Governor Johnson, appointing a Thanksgiving to be held November 15, 1855. The Mayors of cities in that State have within four or five years adopted the custom of issuing a Proclamation for this purpose.

In his Annual Message to the Legislature of Virginia, in 1857, Gov. Wise alluded to requests which had been made to him by various persons of different religious denominations to appoint a day for this observance, which he had declined, because "the State officers have no "authority or power to in- "terfere in religious mat- "ters belonging exclusively " to private individuals and "church organizations." He added: "two of the worst "evils of the times are *poli- "tical religion* and *religious po- "litics*. I am not constituted "and appointed to handle "God's holy things, and I "will not dare, hypocritic- "ally and cantingly, to huck- "ster them in the market of "popularity among men."

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ed. Wherever the practice prevails, schools, public offices, banks, and places of business generally are closed, at least for a part of the day, and religious services are held among most if not all regularly organized denominations. The discourses of the Clergy are upon these occasions often characterized by a freedom of range upon historical reminiscences or other secular subjects that might, by the more scrupulous, be deemed out of place upon the Sabbath Day.

Among firemen, Thanksgiving day is often signalized by public reviews, and among our citizen soldiery, by military parades and excursions for target shooting; generally terminating in a ball or other festive entertainment in the evening. The managers of places of public amusement, counting upon extra patronage, prepare to offer attractions beyond the ordinary programme of the season, and the various pastimes of the public, athletic games, shooting for prizes, and similar diversions, gather each their crowds of pleasure seeking votaries.

However dissimilar these various modes of keeping Thanksgiving may be, there is at least one observance in which they agree, and few persons possessing the means, seldom fail to

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provide a sumptuous repast on that day. To those prevented by poverty the hand of charity is in many cases extended and the poor inmate of the almshouse, the asylum and the prison, looks forward to the appointed day, with a reasonable prospect of an extra indulgence in his bill of fare.

The good old New England custom of a family gathering under the paternal roof, upon Thanksgiving day, is to a great degree still limited to the Eastern States,* and annually calls thousands from distant parts to meet beloved kindred around the family hearth, where amid the scenes and associations of childhood,

> "When gathered home from fresher homes around,
> The old man's children keep the holiday."

The New England Thanksgiving festival has been a favorite theme of the poet and the essayist, but the sympathies which it awakens are of a character to be felt rather than described.

* It is estimated that at least ten thousand persons from New York city alone returned to their early homes in New England to spend Thanksgiving day in 1858. As the appointment in New York occurred one week earlier than in most of those States none were detained at home from this cause and doubtless many persons enjoyed both festivals.

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Whether regarded in its social, domestic or religious character, this custom may be considered beneficial in its influences; and from its cultivating the generous and sympathizing instincts of our nature, and promoting kindly offices toward one another, it may be considered as a salutary check upon the cold and selfish tendencies of unrelaxing application to business and the inordinate pursuit of gain.

FRANKLIN B. HOUGH.

Albany, December 15, 1858.

ERRATA.

Page 1. 4th line from bottom, for "events" read "event."
" 25. Last line, for "Williamson" read "Thomson."
" 29. 3d line from bottom, for "seven" read "four."

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THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATIONS.

Under the Colonial Government of New York, Proclamations for Thanksgiving were occasionally issued upon special occasions of public rejoicing, but not annually, as in the New England Colonies. The defeat of Baron Dieskau, and his French and Indian forces, by the Provincial troops, under Sir William Johnson, in September, 1755, was an event of great import ance, from the immediate relief which it afforded to the frontiers, and of still greater, from the confidence with which it inspired the Colonies, who, without aid from the mother country, had, in this campaign, accomplished more than all the regular armies, which the British Government had the same year employed against Canada. The announcement of the victory was followed by a Thanksgiving, appointed by the Governor.

The most important events of that period, was the conquest of Canada, which was completed by the surrender of Montreal, September 8th, 1760. The Colonies relieved from the

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burden of expensive wars, and the frontiers from the dread of Indian massacre, had abundant cause for rejoicing, and the acting Governor of New York directed the event to be celebrated by Thanksgiving. His Proclamation was as follows:

By the Hon. Cadwallader Colden, Esquire, President of his Majesty's Council and
[L. s.] Commander in Chief of the Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it hath pleased Almighty God to continue his divine presence and blessing with the forces of our gracious sovereign, employed in North America, and enable them not only to recover the Territories of which the French had unjustly and perfidiously possessed themselves, but also to reduce the whole country of Canada to the dominion of his Majesty whereby the northern Colonies are hapily delivered from the calamities of a cruel and barberous war, and have opened to them the most agreable prospect of lasting tranquility and the uninterupted enjoyment of their civil and religious liberties: All which great and unmerited blessings demand our public and grateful acknowledgements, I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of his Majesty's Council to ordain and I do ordain and

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appoint, that Thursday the third day of October instant, be set apart and observed throughout this Province as a day of Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God for these signal successes, and all his Majesty's subjects within this Government are strictly commanded to observe the said day with the utmost decency and reverance, abstaining from all servile labor and devoutly attending divine service which is hereby directed to be solomnly performed in all churches and chappells and other places of publick worship, of which previous notice is to be given by publishing this Proclamation in the several congregations: and I do recommend to all ministers of the gospel that they offer up their earnest and devout prayers to Almighty God for the continuation of his blessing and protection on his Majesty's person and illustrious family, and for such further success to his arms as may secure a safe and lasting peace.

Given under my hand and seal at arms at Fort George, in the city of New York, the first day of October 1760, in the 34th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord, George the Second, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

By his honour's command,

God save the King,

G. W. BANYAR, D. Secy.

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REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

[The success of the American arms at Saratoga, among other acts of public rejoicing, led to the appointment, in Continental Congress, of a Committee, consisting of Samuel Adams, Richard Henry Lee and Daniel Roberdeau, "to prepare a recommendation to the several States, to set apart a day for Thanksgiving, for the signal success lately obtained over the enemies of these United States." On the following day they brought in a report, which was taken into consideration and agreed to, as follows:*]

FORASMUCH as it is the indispensible duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to him for benefits received, and to implore such farther blessings

*The Commander-in-Chief's *Orderly Book*, dated Valley Forge, December 17, 1777, has the following entry:

"To-morrow being the day "set apart by the honorable "Congress for Public Thanks- "giving and praise, and duty "calling us devoutly to ex- "press our grateful acknow- "ledgments to God for the "manifold blessings he has "granted us, the general di- "rects that the army remain "in its present quarters; and "that the chaplains perform "divine service with their "several corps and brigades; "and earnestly exhorts all of- "ficers and soldiers, whose "absence is not indispensa- "bly necessary, to attend "with reverence the solemni- "ties of the day."—*Sparks's Life and Writings of Washington, Vol.* v, *p.* 124.

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as they stand in need of; and it having pleased him in his abundant mercy not only to continue to us the innumerable bounties of his common providence, but also smile upon us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war, for the defence and establishment of our unalienable rights and liberties: particularly in that he hath been pleased in so great a measure to prosper the means used for the support of our troops and to crown our arms with most signal success: it is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United States to set apart Thursday the 18th day of December next, for Solemn Thanksgiving and praise; that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor; and that together with their sincere acknowledgments and offerings, they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they had forfeited every favor; and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance; that it may please him graciously to afford his blessings on the Governments of these States, respectively, and prosper the Public Council of the whole; to inspire our Commanders, both by land and sea, and all under them, with that wisdom and fortitude, which may render them

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fit instruments, under the Providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States the greatest of all blessings, independence and peace; that it may please him to prosper the trade and manufactures of the people, and the labor of the husbandman, that our land may yield its increase; to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety, under his nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion, for the promotion and enlargement of that Kingdom which consisteth in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

And it is further recommended, that servile labour and such recreation as, though at other times innocent, may be unbecoming the purpose of this appointment, be omitted on so solemn an occasion.

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[Letter to Gov. George Clinton, enclosing the resolutions of Congress.]

YORKTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA,
1st November, 1777.

SIR:

The arms of the United States of America having been bles'd in the present campaign with remarkable success, Congress have resolved to recommend that one day, Thursday, the 18th December next, be set apart, to be observed by all the inhabitants throughout these States, for a General Thanksgiving to Almighty God. And I have it in command to transmit to you the enclosed extract, from the minutes of Congress for that purpose.

Your Excellency will be pleased to take the necessary measures for carrying the resolve into effect, in the State in which you preside. You will likewise find enclosed, a certified copy of a minute, which will shew your Excellency the authority under which I have the honor of addressing you.

I am, with great esteem and regard, sir, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant.

HENRY LAURENS,
President in Congress.

His Excellency, GOV. CLINTON.

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[The Chaplains of Congress were, on the 7th of November, 1778, ordered to prepare and report a recommendation to the several States to set apart the 30th day of December following as a day of General Thanksgiving throughout the United States. On the 17th of November, the recommendation was submitted, which being amended, was as follows:]

It having pleased Almighty God, through the course of the present year, to bestow many great and manifold mercies on the people of these United States; and it being the indispensible duty of all men gratefully to acknowledge their obligations to him for benefits received;

Resolved, That it be and hereby is recommended to the legislative or executive authority of each of the said States to appoint Wednesday, the 30th of December next, to be observed as a day of public Thanksgiving and praise; that all people may with united hearts, on that day, express a just sense of his unmerited favour; particularly in that it hath pleased him by his overruling providence to support us in a just and necessary war, for the defence of our rights and liberties, by affording us seasonable supplies for our armies; by disposing the heart of a powerful monarch to enter into an alliance with us, and aid our cause,* by defeating the

* General Washington anticipated the Thanksgiving upon this occasion by several months. The following is an extract from his *Orderly Book*, dated May 6, 1778:

"It having pleased the "Almighty Ruler of the Uni-

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councils and evil designs of our enemies, and giving us victory over their troops; and by the continuance of that union among these States which, by his blessing, will be their future strength and glory.

And it is further recommended, that, together with devout Thanksgiving, may be joined a penitent confession of our sins, and humble supplication for pardon, through the merits of our Saviour, so that, under the smiles of heaven, our public councils may be directed, our arms by land and sea prospered, our liberty and independence secured, our schools and seminaries of learning flourish, our trade be re-

"verse to defend the cause of "the United American States, "and finally to raise us up a "powerful friend among the "princes of the earth, to es- "tablish our liberty and in- "dependency upon a lasting "foundation; it becomes us "to set apart a day for grate- "fully acknowledging the "divine goodness, and cele- "brating the important event "which we owe to his divine "interposition. The several "brigades are to be assem- "bled for this purpose at nine "o'clock to-morrow morning, "when their chaplains will "communicate the intelli- "gence contained in the Post- "script of the Pennsylvania "Gazette of the 2d instant, "and offer up thanksgiving, "and deliver a discourse suit- "able to the occasion. At "half after ten o'clock a can- "non will be fired, which is to "be a signal for the men to "be under arms; the brigade- "inspectors will then inspect "their dress and arms and "form the battalions accord- "ing to the instructions given "them, and announce to the "commanding officers of the "brigade that the battalions "are formed.

"The commanders of bri- "gades will then appoint the "field-officers to the batta-

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vived, our husbandry and manufactures increased, and the hearts of all impressed with undissembled piety, with benevolence and zeal for the public good.

And it is also recommended, that recreations unsuitable to the purpose of such a solemnity may be omitted on that day.

Done in Congress this 17th day of November, 1778, and in the third year of the Independence of the United States of America. HENRY LAURENS, President in Congress.

Attest, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

"lions, after which each bat- "talion will be ordered to "load and ground their arms. "At half past eleven a second "cannon will be fired as a "signal for the march, upon "which the several brigades "will begin their march by "wheeling to the right by "platoons, and proceed by "the nearest way to the left "of their ground by the new "position; this will be point- "ed out by the brigade-in- "spectors. A third signal "will then be given, on "which there will be a dis- "charge of thirteen cannon; "after which a running fire "of the infantry will begin "on the right of Woodford's, "and continue throughout "the front line; it will then "be taken upon the left of "the second line and con- "tinue to the right. Upon "a signal given, the whole "army will huzza, *Long live "the King of France;* the artil- "lery then begins again and "fires thirteen rounds; this "will be succeeded by a se- "cond general discharge of "the musketry in a running "fire, and huzza, *Long live the "friendly European Powers.* "The last discharge of thir- "teen pieces of artillery will "be given, followed by a "general running fire, and "huzza, *The American States.*" —*Sparks's Life and Writings of Washington*, v, 355.

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[On the 14th of October, 1779, Congress resolved, "That it will be proper to set apart the 2d Thursday in December next as a day of General Thanksgiving in these United States, and that a committee of four be appointed to prepare a recommendation to the States for this purpose."

The members appointed were Jesse Root, Samuel Holten, Frederick A. Muhlenberg and Gouverneur Morris, who, on the 20th of October, reported the following draft, which was agreed to :]

WHEREAS it becomes us humbly to approach the throne of Almighty God, with gratitude and praise for the wonders which his goodness has wrought in conducting our forefathers to this western world; for his protection to them and to their posterity amidst difficulties and dangers; for raising us, their children, from deep distress to be numbered among the nations of the earth; and for arming the hands of just and mighty princes in our deliverance; and especially for that he hath been pleased to grant us the enjoyment of health, and so to order the revolving seasons, that the earth hath produced her increase in abundance, blessing the labours of the husbandman, and spreading plenty through the land; that he hath prospered our arms and those of our ally; been a shield to our troops in the hour of danger, pointed their swords to victory, and led them in triumph over the bulwarks of the foe; that he hath gone with those who went out into the

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wilderness against the savage tribes; that he hath stayed the hand of the spoiler, and turned back his meditated destruction; that he hath prospered our commerce, and given success to those who fought the enemy on the face of the deep; and above all, that he hath diffused the glorious light of the gospel, whereby, through the merits of our gracious Redeemer, we may become the heirs of his eternal glory: therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States to appoint Thursday, the 9th of December next, to be a day of Public and Solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty God for his mercies, and of prayer for the continuance of his favour and protection to these United States; to beseech him that he would be graciously pleased to influence our public councils, and bless them with wisdom from on high, with unanimity, firmness and success; that he would go forth with our hosts and crown our armies with victory; that he would grant to his church the plentiful effusions of divine grace, and pour out his holy spirit on all ministers of the gospel; that he would bless and prosper the means of education, and spread the light of Christian knowledge through the remotest corners of the earth; that he would smile upon the labours of his people, and cause the earth to bring forth her fruits in abundance; that we may with gratitude and gladness enjoy

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them; that he would take into his holy protection our illustrious ally, give him victory over his enemies, and render him signally great, as the father of his people and the protector of the rights of mankind; that he would graciously be pleased to turn the hearts of our enemies, and to dispense the blessings of peace to contending nations; that he would in mercy look down upon us, pardon our sins and receive us into his favour, and finally, that he would establish the independence of these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue, and support and protect them in the enjoyment of peace, liberty and safety.

Done in Congress, the twentieth day of October, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, and in the fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON,
President.

Attest, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

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[On the 18th of October, 1780, Congress took into consideration a resolution reported for setting apart a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, and agreed upon the following:]

WHEREAS it hath pleased Almighty God, the Father of all Mercies, amidst the vicissitudes and calamities of war, to bestow blessings on the people of these States, which call for their devout and thankful acknowledgments, more especially in the late remarkable interposition of his watchful providence, in rescuing the person of our Commander-in-Chief and the army from imminent dangers at the moment when treason was ripened for execution; in prospering the labours of the husbandman, and causing the earth to yield its increase in plentiful harvests; and above all, in continuing to us the enjoyment of the gospel of peace:

It is therefore recommended to the several States to set apart Thursday, the seventh day of December next, to be observed as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer; that all the people may assemble on that day to celebrate the praises of our Divine Benefactor; to confess our unworthiness of the least of his favours, and to offer our fervent supplications to the God of all grace; that it may please him to pardon our heinous transgressions, and incline our hearts for the future to keep all his laws; to comfort and relieve our brethren who

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are anywise afflicted or distressed; to smile upon our husbandry and trade; to direct our public councils, and lead our forces by land and sea to victory; to take our illustrious ally under his special protection, and favour our joint councils and exertions for the establishment of speedy and permanent peace; to cherish all schools and seminaries of education, and to cause the knowledge of Christianity to spread over all the earth.

Done in Congress, this eighteenth day of October, 1780, and in the fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, President.

Attest, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

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[A committee, consisting of John Witherspoon, John Montgomery, James M. Varnum and Roger Sherman, appointed September 13, 1781, reported a draft of a Proclamation, which was agreed to, October 26th, as follows :]

PROCLAMATION.*

WHEREAS, it hath pleased Almighty God, the Father of Mercies, remarkably to assist and support the United States of America, in their important struggle for liberty, against the long continued efforts of a powerful nation; it is the duty of all ranks to observe and thankfully to acknowledge the interpositions of his

* Gen. Washington, in reply to a letter from the President of Congress, inclosing this Proclamation, thus wrote from Mount Vernon, November 15, 1781:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 31st ult., covering the resolutions of Congress of the 29th, and a Proclamation for a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving, and have to thank you, sir, most sincerely for the very polite and affectionate manner in which these enclosures have been conveyed. The success of the combined arms against our enemies at York and Gloucester, as it affects the welfare and independence of the United States, I viewed as a most fortunate event. In performing my part towards its accomplishment, I consider myself to have done only my duty, and in the execution of that I ever feel myself happy; and at the same time, as it augurs well to our cause, I take a particular pleasure in acknowledging, that the interposing hand of heaven, in the various instances of our extensive preparations for this operation, has been most conspicuous and remarkable." — *Sparks's Life and Writ. of Washington*, VIII, 207.

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providence in their behalf. Through the whole of the contest, from its first rise to this time, the influence of Divine Providence may be clearly perceived in many signal instances, of which we mention but a few.

In revealing the councils of our enemies, when the discoveries were seasonable and important, and the means seemingly inadequate or fortuitous; in preserving and even improving the union of the several States, on the breach of which our enemies placed their greatest dependence; in increasing the number and adding to the zeal and attachment of the friends of liberty; in granting remarkable deliverances, and blessing us with the most signal success, when affairs seemed to have the most discouraging appearance; in raising up for us a powerful and generous ally, in one of the first of the European powers; in confounding the councils of our enemies, and suffering them to pursue such measures as have most directly contributed to frustrate their own desires and expectations; above all, in making their extreme cruelty to the inhabitants of these States, when in their power, and their savage devastation of property, the very means of cementing our union, and adding vigour to every effort in opposition to them.

And as we can not help leading the good people of these States to a retrospect on the events which have taken place, since the begin-

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ning of the war, so we recommend, in a particular manner to their observation, the goodness of God in the year now drawing to a conclusion. In which the confederation of the United States has been completed;* in which there have been so many instances of prowess and success in our armies; particularly in the southern States, where, notwithstanding the difficulties with which they had to struggle, they have recovered the whole country, which the enemy had over run, leaving them only a post or two on or near the sea; in which we have been so powerfully and effectually assisted by our allies, while in all the conjunct operations, the most perfect harmony has subsisted in the allied army; in which there has been so plentiful a harvest, and so great abundance of the fruits of the earth of every kind, as not only enables us easily to supply the wants of our army, but gives comfort and happiness to the whole people; and in which, after the success of our allies by sea, a General of the first rank, with his whole army, has been captured by the allied forces, under the direction of our Commander-in-Chief.†

It is therefore recommended to the several

* The Delegates from Maryland signed and ratified the Articles of Confederation, March 1, 1781, by which the league of the thirteen Colonies was confirmed.

† On the 24th of October, 1781, Congress resolved, that it would at 2 o'clock on that day, "go in procession to the "Dutch Lutheran Church, and "return thanks to Almighty

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States, to set apart the thirteenth day of December next, to be religiously observed as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer; that all the people may assemble on that day, with grateful hearts, to celebrate the praises of our gracious Benefactor; to confess our manifold sins; to offer up our most fervent supplications to the God of all grace, that it may please him to pardon our offences, and incline our hearts for the future to keep all his laws; to comfort and relieve all our brethren who are in distress or captivity; to prosper our husbandmen, and give success to all engaged in lawful commerce; to impart wisdom and integrity to our councillors, justice and fortitude to our officers and soldiers; to protect and prosper our illustrious ally, and favour our united exertions for the speedy establishment of a safe, honorable and lasting peace; to bless all seminaries of learning, and cause the knowledge of God to cover the earth, as the waters cover the seas.

Done in Congress, this twenty-sixth day of October, 1781, and in the sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

THOMAS McKEAN, President.

Attest, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

"God, for crowning the allied "arms of the United States "and France with success, by "the surrender of the whole "British army, under the command of the Earl Cornwallis."

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[On the report of a committee, consisting of John Witherspoon, John Montgomery and Hugh Williamson, Congress, in October, 1782, appointed a day of Thanksgiving. This was transmitted to the several States, and upon its receipt by Gov. Clinton, he issued a Proclamation, embodying that adopted by Congress. It was in the following words:]

By his Excellency, Geo. Clinton, Esq., Governor of the State of New York, General and Commander-in-Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same.

PROCLAMATION.

Agreeable to a Proclamation of the United
[L. S.] States in Congress assembled, of the eleventh instant, in the words following, viz:

"It being the indispensable duty of all na-
" tions, not only to offer up their supplica-
" tions to Almighty God, the Giver of all Good,
" for his gracious assistance in a time of distress,
" but also in a solemn and public manner to
" give him praise for his goodness in general,
" and especially for great and signal interposi-
" tions of his providence in their behalf; there-
" fore the United States in Congress assembled,
" taking into their consideration the many in-
" stances of divine goodness to these States, in
" the course of the important conflict in which
" they have been so long engaged; the present
" happy and promising state of public affairs,

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"and the events of the war in the course of the "year now drawing to a close, particularly the "harmony of the public councils, which is so "necessary to the success of the public cause; "the perfect union and good understanding "which has hitherto subsisted between them "and their allies, notwithstanding the artful "and unwearied attempts of the common "enemy to divide them; the success of the "arms of the United States and those of their "allies, and the acknowledgment of their in- "dependence by another European power, "whose friendship and commerce must be of "great and lasting advantage to these States; "do hereby recommend it to the inhabitants of "these States in general, to observe, and request "the several States to interpose their authority "in commanding and authorizing Thursday, "the twenty-eighth day of November next, as "a day of Solemn Thanksgiving to God for all "his mercies; and they do further recommend "to all ranks, to testify their gratitude to God "for his goodness, by a cheerful obedience to "his laws, and by promoting, each in his sta- "tion, and by his influence, the practice of true "and undefiled religion, which is the great "foundation of public prosperity and national "happiness."

I do hereby earnestly recommend it to all the good people of this State, to set apart and observe Thursday, the twenty-eighth day of

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November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and to abstain from all worldly labor and recreations, and to assemble for public worship on that day accordingly.

Given under my hand, and the privy seal of the said State, at Poughkeepsie, the twenty-second day of October, in the seventh year of the Independence of the said State, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two.

GEORGE CLINTON.

By his Excellency's command.

ROBERT BENSON, Secretary.

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[The Committee, consisting of James Duane, Samuel Huntington and Samuel Holten, appointed to prepare a Proclamation for a day of Thanksgiving, reported on the 18th of October, 1783, a draft, which was agreed to as follows :]

By the United States in Congress assembled.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it hath pleased the Supreme Ruler of all human events to dispose the hearts of the late belligerent powers to put a period to the effusion of human blood, by proclaiming a cessation of all hostilities by sea and land, and these United States are not only happily rescued from the dangers and calamities to which they have been so long exposed, but their freedom, sovereignty and independence ultimately acknowledged. And whereas, in the progress of a contest on which the most essential rights of human nature depended, the interposition of Divine Providence in our favour hath been most abundantly and most graciously manifested, and the citizens of these United States have every reason for praise and gratitude to the God of their salvation. Impressed, therefore, with an exalted sense of the blessings by which we are surrounded, and of our entire dependence on that Almighty Being from whose goodness and bounty they are derived, the United States in Congress assembled, do recommend it to the several States to set apart the second Thursday

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in December next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving, that all the people may then assemble to celebrate with grateful hearts and united voices the praises of their Supreme and All-bountiful Benefactor, for his numberless favors and mercies. That he hath been pleased to conduct us in safety through all the perils and vicissitudes of the war; that he hath given us unanimity and resolution to adhere to our just rights; that he hath raised up a powerful ally to assist us in supporting them, and hath so far crowned our united efforts with success, that in the course of the present year hostilities have ceased, and we are left in the undisputed possession of our liberty and independence, and of the fruits of our land, and in the free participation of the treasures of the sea; that he hath prospered the labour of our husbandmen with plentiful harvests; and above all, that he hath been pleased to continue to us the light of the blessed gospel, and secured to us in the fullest extent the rights of conscience in faith and worship. And while our hearts overflow with gratitude, and our lips set forth the praises of our great Creator, that we also offer up fervent supplications, that it may please him to pardon all our offences, to give wisdom and unanimity to our public councils, to cement all our citizens in the bonds of affection, and to inspire them with an earnest regard for the national honor and interest, to enable them to improve

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the days of prosperity by every good work, and to be lovers of peace and tranquility; that he may be pleased to bless us in our husbandry, our commerce and navigation; to smile upon our seminaries and means of education, to cause pure religion and virtue to flourish, to give peace to all nations, and to fill the world with his glory.

Done by the United States in Congress assembled. Witness His Excellency, Elias Boudinot, our President, this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America the eighth.

ELIAS BOUDINOT, President.

CHARLES WILLIAMSON, Secretary.

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[A Committee of the Committee of the States, consisting of Mr. Read, Mr. Dana and Mr. Hand, to whom was referred the motion of Mr. Read of the 2d instant, "That a committee be appointed to prepare a Proclamation for a day of Solemn Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God, to be observed throughout the United States of America, on the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the definitive treaty of peace between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty; and the happy completion of the great work of independency and peace to these United States," reported the following form of a Proclamation:]

By the United States of America, in a Committee of the States assembled.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it hath pleased the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, of his infinite goodness and mercy, so to calm the minds and do away the resentment of the powers lately engaged in a most bloody and destructive war, and to dispose their hearts towards amity and friendship, that a general pacification hath taken place, and particularly a definitive treaty of peace between the said United States of America and his Britannic Majesty was signed at Paris, on the third day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three: the instruments of the final ratifications which were exchanged at Passy, on the 12th day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, whereby a finishing

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hand was put to the great work of peace, and the freedom, sovereignty and independence of these States fully and compleatly established. And whereas, in pursuit of the great work of freedom and independence, and the progress of the contest in which the United States of America have been engaged, and on the success of which the dearest and most essential rights of human nature depended, the benign interposition of Divine Providence hath, on many occasions, been most miraculously and abundantly manifested; and the citizens of the United States have the greatest reason to return their most hearty and sincere Praises and Thanksgiving to the God of their deliverance—whose name be praised. Deeply impressed, therefore, with the sense of the mercies manifested to these United States, and of the blessings which it hath pleased God to shower down on us, of our future dependence at all times on his power and mercy, as the only source from which so great benefits can be derived; we, the United States of America in the Committee of the States assembled, do earnestly recommend to the supreme Executives of the several States, to set apart Tuesday, the nineteenth day of October next, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving, that all the people of the United States may then assemble in their respective churches and congregations, to celebrate with grateful hearts and joyful and united voices, the mercies and

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praises of their all-bountiful Creator, most holy, and most righteous! for his innumerable favours and mercies vouchsafed unto them—more especially that he hath been graciously pleased so to conduct us through the perils and dangers of the war, as finally to establish the United States in freedom and independency, and to give them a name and place among the princes and nations of the earth—that he hath raised up great captains and men of war from amongst us to lead our armies, and in our greatest difficulties and distresses hath given us unanimity to adhere to and assert our just rights and privileges; and that he hath been most graciously pleased also to raise up a most powerful prince and magnanimous people, as allies to assist us in effectually supporting and maintaining them; that he hath been pleased to prosper the labour of our husbandmen; that there is no famine or want seen throughout our land; and above all, that he hath been pleased to continue to us the light of gospel truths, and secured to us in the fullest manner the rights of conscience in faith and worship.

And while our hearts overflow with gratitude, and our lips pronounce the praises of our great and merciful Creator, that we may also offer up our joint and fervent supplications, that it may please him of his infinite goodness and mercy to pardon all our sins and offences; to inspire with wisdom and a true sense of the public

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good, all our public councils; to strengthen and cement the bonds of love and affection between all our citizens; to impress them with an earnest regard for the public good and national faith and honor, and to teach them to improve the days of peace by every good work; to pray that he will in a more especial manner shower down his blessings on Louis, the most Christian King our ally, to prosper his house, that his son's sons may long sit on the throne of their ancestors a blessing to the people entrusted to his charge—to bless all mankind, and inspire the princes and nations of the earth with the love of peace, that the sound of war may be heard of no more; that he may be pleased to smile upon us, and bless our husbandry, fishery, our commerce, and especially our schools and seminaries of learning; and to raise up from among our youth men eminent for virtue, learning and piety, to his service in church and state; to cause virtue and true religion to flourish, to give to all nations amity, peace and concord, and to fill the world with his glory.

Done by the United States, in the Committee of the States assembled. Witness the Honorable Samuel Hardy, chairman, this third day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and in the ninth of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America.

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NATIONAL THANKSGIVINGS

UNDER WASHINGTON'S ADMINISTRATION.

[A resolution was adopted in the House of Representatives, September 25th, 1789, in the following words:

"On motion,

"*Resolved*, That a Joint Committee of both Houses be "directed to wait upon the President of the United "States, to request that he would recommend to the "People of the United States a day of Thanksgiving and "Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grate- "ful hearts the many signal favours of Almighty God, "especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably "to establish a Constitution of Government for their "safety and happiness.

"*Ordered*, That Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Sherman and Mr. "Silvester be of the said Committee on the part of this "House."

Concurred by the Senate the same day.]

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint Committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United "States a day of Public Thanksgiving and

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"Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with "grateful hearts the many and signal favours "of Almighty God, especially by affording "them an opportunity peaceably to establish a "form of government for their safety and hap- "piness;"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the Beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind care and protection of the people of this country, previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favourable interpositions of his providence, in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of Government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favours, which he has been pleased to confer upon us.

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And, also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science, among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

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[The suppression of the rebellion in Western Pennsylvania, which, for a time, threatened the safety of the Union, was deemed by President Washington an event that called for a public act of Thanksgiving, which he ordered, without special authority of Congress.]

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEN we review the calamities, which afflict so many other nations, the present condition of the United States affords much matter of consolation and satisfaction. Our exemption hitherto from foreign war, an increasing prospect of the continuance of that exemption, the great degree of internal tranquility we have enjoyed, the recent confirmation of that tranquility by the suppression of an insurrection, which so wantonly threatened it, the happy course of our public affairs in general, the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our citizens, are circumstances, which peculiarly mark our situation with indication of the Divine Beneficence towards us. In such a state of things, it is in an especial manner our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore him to continue and confirm the blessings we experience.

Deeply penetrated with this sentiment, I, George Washington, President of the United States, do recommend to all religious societies

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and denominations, and to all persons whomsoever within the United States, to set apart and observe Thursday, the 19th day of February next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer, and on that day to meet together and render their sincere and hearty thanks to the Great Ruler of Nations for the manifold and signal mercies, which distinguish our lot as a nation; particularly for the possession of constitutions of government, which unite, and by their union establish, liberty with order; for the preservation of our peace, foreign and domestic; for the seasonable control, which has been given to a spirit of disorder in the suppression of the late insurrection; and, generally, for the prosperous course of our affairs public and private; and at the same time, humbly and fervently to beseech the kind Author of those blessings graciously to prolong them to us; to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to him for them; to teach us rightly to estimate their immense value; to preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity, and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits; to dispose us to merit the continuance of his favors by not abusing them, by our gratitude for them, and by a correspondent conduct as citizens and as men; to render this country more and more a safe and propitious asylum for the unfortunate of other countries; to extend among us true

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and useful knowledge; to diffuse and establish habits of sobriety, order, morality and piety; and finally, to impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for yourselves, to the whole family of mankind.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Done at the
[L. S.] city of Philadelphia, this first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the nineteenth.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

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THANKSGIVING AT THE PEACE OF 1815.

[The official notification of peace with Great Britain, was communicated to the House of Representatives, by the President, February 18th, 1815, and the same day the following resolution was introduced:

"It being a duty particularly incumbent, in a time of "public calamity and war, humbly and devoutly to ac- "knowledge our dependence on Almighty God, and to "implore his aid and protection, and in times of de- "liverance and prosperity, to manifest our deep and "undissembled gratitude to the Almighty Sovereign of "the Universe; therefore,

"*Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of "the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That "a Joint Committee of both Houses wait on the Presi- "dent of the United States, and request that he recom- "mend a day of Thanksgiving, to be observed by the "people of the United States, with religious solemnity, "and the offering of devout acknowledgments to God "for his mercies, and in prayer to him for the continu- "ance of his blessings."

A motion was made by Mr. Culpepper of North Carolina, February 21st, to strike out from the preamble, the words, "in a time of public calamity and war, "humbly and devoutly to acknowledge our dependence "on Almighty God, and to implore his aid and protec- "tion," and prevailed; and on the second of March, Mr. Fish of New York, and Mr. Culpepper, were appointed,

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on the part of the House, a Committee, to wait upon the President with the resolution.

In accordance with this request, the President issued the following Proclamation :]

PROCLAMATION

By the President of the United States of America.

THE Senate and House of Representatives of the United States have, by a joint resolution, signified their desire, that a day may be recommended to be observed, by the people of the United States, with religious solemnity, as a day of Thanksgiving, and of devout acknowledgments to Almighty God for his great goodness, manifested in restoring to them the blessings of peace.

No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of the Great Disposer of events, and of the destiny of nations, than the people of the United States. His kind providence originally conducted them to one of the best portions of the dwelling place allowed for the great family of the human race. He protected and cherished them, under all the difficulties and trials to which they were exposed in their early days. Under his fostering care, their habits, their sentiments and their pursuits, prepared them for a transition in due time to a state of Independence and of Self-government. In the arduous struggle by which it was attained, they were distinguished by

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multiplied tokens of his benign interposition. During the interval which succeeded, he reared them into strength, and endowed them with the resources which have enabled them to assert their national rights, and to enhance their national character in another arduous conflict, which is now happily terminated, by a peace and reconciliation with those who have been our enemies. And to the same Divine Author of every good and perfect gift, we are indebted for all those privileges and advantages, religious as well as civil, which are so richly enjoyed in this favored land.

It is for blessings such as these, and more especially for the restoration of the blessings of peace, that I now recommend that the second Thursday in April next, be set apart as a day on which the people of every religious denomination, may, in their solemn assemblies, unite their hearts and their voices, in a free-will offering to their Heavenly Benefactor, of their homage of Thanksgiving, and of their songs of Praise.

Given at the city of Washington, on the fourth day of March, in the year of our
[L. S.] Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty-ninth.

JAMES MADISON.

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MESSAGE

Of the Governor of New York, communicating an official notice of the ratification of the Treaty of Peace.*

"Gentlemen: I have the honor to inform you, that "I have received official information of the ratifica- "tion of a Treaty of Peace, between the United States "and Great Britain.

"In presenting you my congratulations on this au- "spicious event, I am forcibly struck with the propriety "of offering up our Thanks to the Beneficent Ruler of "the Universe, that he has been pleased to signalize our "arms by so many splendid and important victories, "and to conduct our beloved country, thus successfully, "through the perils of war. Under this impression, I "feel it a sacred duty to unite with the Legislature, in "recommending to the citizens of this State, the ob- "servance of a day to be devoted to suitable Prayer, "Thanksgiving and Praise."

DANIEL D. TOMPKINS.

Albany, 21st February, 1815.

* The Peace of Ghent, was signed by the Commissioners, December 14, 1814, and proclaimed by the President, February 18, 1815.

On the same day that the above Message was transmitted, the Assembly had passed a series of resolutions, for celebrating in a becoming manner the ratification of Peace, which was then generally reported to have occurred, although no official notification had been received. By the first of these resolutions, the Governor was requested, as soon as official notice of the ratification should be received, to issue a Proclamation, appointing an early day to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving.

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[Extract from the New York Senate Journal.]

* * * * * *

"The Senate then resolved itself into a Committee of "the Whole, on the Message of his Excellency the Go- "vernor, of this day, informing the Senate of his having "been officially informed of the ratification of a Treaty "of Peace between the United States and Great Britain, "and congratulating the Senate on this auspicious "event; and also recommending the propriety of setting "apart a day to be devoted to suitable Prayer, Thanks- "giving and Praise; and after some time spent thereon, "Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. Bishop, from "the said Committee, reported that the Committee had "agreed to the resolutions, in the words following, to "wit:

"*Resolved*, as the sense of this Committee, that the "Senate do reciprocate to his Excellency the Governor, "the congratulations this day communicated by him to "this House, on the auspicious event of a ratification "of a Treaty of Peace, between the United States and "Great Britain.

"*Resolved*, as the sense of this Committee (if the ho- "norable the Assembly concur herein), that his Ex- "cellency the Governor be requested to appoint, and "recommend by Proclamation, a day of public Prayer, "Thanksgiving and Praise, to be observed by the citi- "zens of this State, to offer thanks to Almighty God, "for the ratification of a Treaty of Peace and Amity, "between the United States and Great Britain; that he "has been pleased to signalize our arms by so many "splendid and important victories; that he has con- "ducted our country successfully through the perils of

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"war; and that he has preserved to us our invaluable "civil and religious institutions."

Agreed to in Senate, February 21, 1815.
Agreed to in Assembly, February 24, 1815.

PROCLAMATION

By Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of the state of New York, General and Commander-in-Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same.

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate and Assembly of this State, I do hereby set apart the second Thursday of April next, to be devoted to public Prayer, Thanksgiving and Praise; and I do most earnestly recommend to the good people of this State, of every denomination, to abstain from all kinds of labor and business on that day, to meet in their respective places of worship, and there unite their hearts in fervent prayer to the Most High, in humble acknowledgment of his all protecting influence; and in celebration of his goodness manifested to us as a nation, in that he has been pleased to signalize our arms by so many splendid victories—to conduct our country successfully through the perils of the late war—to restore to us the blessings of peace, and to preserve, unimpaired, our civil and religious institutions.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the privy seal of the State of New York to be

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hereunto affixed, at the city of Albany,
[L. S.] the seventeenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

DANIEL D. TOMPKINS.

By his Excellency the Governor.
ROBERT TILLOTSON, Priv. Secretary.

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THANKSGIVINGS

ORDERED BY THE GOVERNORS OF NEW YORK.

By his Excellency John Jay, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the State of New York.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the Great Creator and Preserver of the Universe, is the Supreme Sovereign of Nations, and does when and as he pleases, reward or punish them by temporal blessings or calamities according as their national conduct recommends them to his favor and bene-ficence, or excites his displeasure and indignation:

And whereas, in the course of his government he hath graciously been pleased to shew singular kindness to the people and nation of which this State is a constituent member, by protecting our ancestors in their first establishment in this then savage wilderness—by defending them against their enemies—by blessing them with an uncommon degree of peace, liberty and safety, and with the civilizing light and influence of his holy gospel—by leading us (as it were by the hand), through the various dangers and difficulties of the late revolution,

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and crowning it with success; by giving us wisdom and opportunity to establish governments and institutions, auspicious to order, security and rational liberty; by preserving us from being involved in the wars, and other grievous calamities, which at this moment afflict and distress many nations,* by restoring peace between us and the hostile Indians, who infested our borders;† by constantly favoring us with fruitful seasons, and in general, by giving us a greater portion of public welfare and prosperity than to any other people.

And whereas, it hath pleased him, by permitting sickness to prevail, and be fatal to the lives of many of our principal city,‡ and in sundry places in this and other States, and by the extensive alarms and embarrassments which attended it, to remind us that prosperity and adversity are in his hand, and that in all our pursuits we are to remember that he is the

* The first coalition against France, directed by England, was formed in 1793, and embraced every principal country in Europe, except Sweden, Denmark and Turkey. Its special design was to check the republican tendencies of the French Revolution.

† The Treaty at Greeneville, signed August 3, 1795, included eleven hostile Indian tribes, and was followed by the rapid settlement of the western frontiers.

‡ The yellow fever prevailed to a fearful extent, in New York city in this year. The history of this visitation has been written by Dr. Richard Bayley.

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cause and giver of all the good that was, that is or that will be.

And whereas, our Almighty Sovereign, in addition to his other mercies, hath lately staid the hand of the destroying angel, and by thus manifesting and multiplying his benefits to us as a people, call upon us as a people to manifest our gratitude to him.

Wherefore, and particularly on this occasion, it appears to me to be the public duty of the people of this State, collectively considered, to render unto him their sincere and humble thanks, for all these his great and unmerited mercies and blessings; and also to offer up to him their fervent petitions to continue to us his protection and favor. To preserve to us the undisturbed enjoyment of our civil and religious rights and privileges, and the valuable life and usefulness of the President of the United States. To enable all our rulers, councils and people, to do the duties incumbent on them, respectively, with wisdom and fidelity—to promote the extension of true religion, virtue and learning—to give us all grace to cultivate national union, concord and good will; and generally to bless our nation, and all other nations, in the manner and measure most conducive to our and their best interests and real welfare.

Whether the Governor of this State is vested with authority to appoint a day for these purposes, and to enjoin the observance of it, is a

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question, which, circumstanced as it is, I consider as being more proper for the Legislature than for me to decide. But, as the people of the State have constituted me their Chief Magistrate, and being perfectly convinced, that national prosperity depends, and ought to depend, on national gratitude and obedience to the Supreme Ruler of all Nations, I think it proper to recommend, and therefore I do earnestly recommend, to the clergy and others, my fellow citizens, throughout this State, to set apart Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November inst., for the purposes aforesaid, and to observe it accordingly.

Given under my hand, at the Government House, in the city of New York, on the eleventh day of November, in the year [L. s.] of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, and in the twentieth year of the Independence of the United States.

JOHN JAY.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS it is an obvious and solemn duty, to render the oblations of devout and grateful hearts to Almighty God, for the manifold blessings conferred upon us at all times, by the gracious dispensations of his providence, and especially for those so signally and extensively experienced at the present period, in the abundant productions of the earth; in the prevalence of general health; in the increasing diffusion of the lights of knowledge; in the successful progress of useful improvements; in the flourishing state of our seminaries of education; in the continued enjoyment of peace, liberty and Independence, and in the general prosperity of the American people. I have therefore considered it an indispensable obligation, to recommend, and I do accordingly recommend, the observance of Thursday, the thirteenth day of November next, as a day of Prayer and Thanksgiving in this State.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the privy seal of the State to be affixed, at the [L. S.] city of Albany, this fifteenth day of Oc-

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tober, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, and in the forty-second year of the Independence of the United States.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS the great and multiplied blessings conferred by Almighty God on the people of this State, demand from them the solemn and united expression of gratitude to the Author of every good and perfect gift, I have therefore considered it an indispensable duty to recommend the observance of a day for Public Prayer and Thanksgiving; and I do accordingly recommend for that purpose, Thursday, the fifth day of November next.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this twenty-first day of September, in [L. s.] the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, and in the forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS the offering up to Almighty God, of public and united thanks for his blessings, is an evident duty of religion; and the recommendation of a particular day for that solemn purpose, while it in no wise interferes with the freedom of religious opinion or practice, is the most direct and proper means of uniting individual Thanksgiving in one social expression of the public gratitude. And whereas, this State has been greatly distinguished by the dispensation of a Benign Providence; having experienced during the past year the continued blessings of freedom and of peace—the successful progress of great internal improvements—the increase of seminaries of education—the general preservation of the public health, and its deliverance in the metropolis from calamities with which it was menaced—an unprecedented abundance of the fruits of the earth, and an augmentation of the lights of religion and knowledge. Now, therefore, I have judged it my incumbent duty, to recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Wednesday, the twenty-second day of Novem-

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ber next, as a day of Prayer and Thanksgiving. And I do so in the earnest hope, that all, except such as may be withheld by scruples of conscience, will, on that day, assemble in their respective places of worship, and present the sublime spectacle, of a whole people offering the homage of devout and grateful hearts, to that great and good Being, from whose bounty we derive all that we enjoy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy
[L. s.] seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS public demonstrations of gratitude to Almighty God, especially for signal and unmerited blessings, are enjoined by the most impressive considerations of patriotism, and the most solemn obligations of religion. And whereas, it has been his divine pleasure to continue his manifestations of great goodness to the people of this State, in averting the ravages of pestilence, multiplying the fruits of the earth, promoting the diffusion of religion, advancing the interests of knowledge, prospering internal improvements, and vouchsafeing the enjoyment of liberty, peace and plenty.

Now, therefore, under a grateful sense of these indulgent dispensations, a solemn conviction, that private happiness and public prosperity are indissolubly connected with the cultivation of religion, and a deep solicitude to endeavor to merit the favor of Divine Providence, I do hereby recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Wednesday, the sixth day of December next, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto sub-

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scribed my name, and affixed the privy seal of the State, at the city of New
[L. S.] York, this twenty-fifth day of October, Anno Domino eighteen hundred and twenty.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS the offering up to Almighty God, of public and united thanks for his blessings, is an evident duty of religion. And whereas, the recommendation of a particular day for that solemn purpose, interferes in no wise with religious freedom, and is the most direct and proper means of uniting individual Thanksgiving in one social expression of the public gratitude. And whereas, this State has been greatly distinguished by the gracious dispensation of Divine Providence, having experienced during the present year, the continued blessings of liberty and peace; the successful progress of great internal improvements; the increased usefulness of seminaries of education; the general preservation of health; an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and an augmentation of the lights of religion and knowledge.

Now, therefore, I have judged it my incumbent duty, to recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Wednesday, the twelfth day of December next, as a day of Prayer and Thanksgiving. And I do so in the earnest hope and in the confident expectation,

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that all, except such as may be withheld by scruples of conscience, will on that day assemble in their respective places of worship, and present the sublime spectacle, of a whole people offering the homage of devout and grateful hearts to that great and good Being from whose bounty we derive all that we enjoy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy
[L. S.] seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS public demonstrations of gratitude to Almighty God, for the manifold dispensations of his goodness, and for the enjoyment of signal and unmerited blessings, are enjoined by the most impressive considerations of patriotism, and the most solemn obligations of religion. And whereas, it has been his divine pleasure to continue his manifestations of great goodness to the people of this State, in multiplying the fruits of the earth, promoting the diffusion of religion, advancing the interests of knowledge, prospering internal improvements, and vouchsafeing the enjoyment of liberty, peace and plenty.

Now, therefore, under a grateful sense of these indulgent dispensations, a solemn conviction that private happiness and public prosperty are indissolubly connected with the cultivation of religion, and a deep solicitude to endeavor to merit the favor of Divine Providence, I do hereby recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Thursday, the

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fifth day of December next, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany,
[L. S.] this thirty-first day of October, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By Joseph C. Yates, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS the people of this State have been highly favored with unmerited blessings from the protecting hand of the Beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe, signally manifested throughout the year past, by continuing to promote the cause of religion in our land, the diffusion of it abroad, and the dissemination of useful knowledge among all classes of citizens; by withholding the alarming and destructive scourge of pestilence;* by causing the earth to yield an abundant increase, and thus gladdening the heart of the husbandman, and removing apprehension and anxiety from all, in giving health, peace and plenty. By affording positive indications, that the enterprise, perseverance and patriotism of the people, for some time past, evinced by the unexampled liberality of their representatives, with regard to their internal improvements, will be successful and

* The city of New York had been visited, the year previous, by the yellow fever, of which four hundred and eleven persons sickened, and two hundred and forty died. It also appeared in Brooklyn, and several died. Great alarm prevailed, more especially as the disease appeared in a quarter of the city, before considered very healthy.

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extremely useful and advantageous. By enabling the constituted authorities under his superintending care and guidance, peacefully to organize a government, according to a constitution formed and adopted by the people; securing to them the blessings of liberty, and the undisturbed fruition of their own labor and exertions.* These, and innumerable other important blessings, daily dispensed to all, call loudly for a united and public expression of gratitude to Almighty God, beseeching him to continue his benign favors, and to vouchsafe to them, individually, and as a community, dispositions to cherish a grateful remembrance of his unbounded goodness and mercy towards them. I do therefore, under a solemn sense of duty, recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Thursday, the eighteenth day of December next, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy [L. s.] seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this eighteenth day of October, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three.

JOSEPH C. YATES.

* The Constitutional Convention of 1821, met in August, and the Constitution was adopted by popular vote in February, 1822, and went into full operation on the first day of January, 1823.

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PROCLAMATION

By Joseph C. Yates, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS the blessings of Almighty God have been specially bestowed upon the people of this State, during the past year—in the abundance of the harvests; in the unexampled prosperity prevailing throughout our happy land; in the protection afforded to our lives, liberty and property, and in all our temporal and religious concerns; benefits demanding the most sincere and fervent gratitude and thanks to the Creator and Preserver of the Universe. I have therefore designated Thursday, the 21st day of December next, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving; the observance of which is hereby recommended to the good people of this State.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany,
[L. S.] this eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four.

JOSEPH C. YATES.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS public demonstration of gratitude to Almighty God, especially for signal and unmerited blessings, are enjoined by the most impressive considerations of patriotism and the most solemn obligations of religion. And whereas it has been his divine pleasure to continue his manifestations of great goodness to the people of this State, in averting the ravages of disease, multiplying the fruits of the earth, promoting the diffusion of religion and useful knowledge, advancing the interests of agriculture, manufactures, trade and commerce, prospering internal improvements, vouchsafing the enjoyment of liberty, peace and plenty, and infusing an increasing spirit of good will and harmony into this great community. Now therefore, under a grateful sense of these indulgent dispensations, a solemn conviction that private happiness and public prosperity are indissolubly connected with the cultivation of religion, and a deep solicitude to endeavor to merit the favor of Divine Providence, I do hereby recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Thursday the twenty-

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fourth day of November, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany,
[L. s.] this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS public demonstration of gratitude to Almighty God, for the manifest dispensations of his goodness, and for the enjoyment of signal and unmerited blessings, are duties of paramount and indispensable obligation. And whereas it has been his divine pleasure to continue his manifestations of great goodness to the people of this State, in multiplying the fruits of the earth, promoting the diffusion of religion, advancing the interests of knowledge, averting the ravages of disease, prospering internal improvements and vouchsafing the enjoyment of liberty, peace and plenty. Now therefore, under a grateful sense of these high and beneficent dispensations, and with a deep solicitude in the performance of a solemn duty, I do hereby recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Thursday the seventh day of December next, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my name and the privy seal, at the city

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of Albany, this twenty-fifth day of Octo-
[L. S.] ber, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS the recommendation of a particular day for the offering up to Almighty God of public and united thanks for his manifold blessings, interferes in no wise with religious freedom, and is the most direct and proper means of uniting individual thanksgiving in one social expression of the public gratitude; and whereas the people of this State have been greatly distinguished by the gracious dispensations of Divine Providence, having experienced for a long time the blessings of liberty, plenty and peace, the benefits of great internal improvements, of prosperous seminaries of education, and of a general state of health, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and an augmenting diffusion of the lights of religion and knowledge. Now therefore, I have judged it my incumbent duty, to recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Wednesday the twelfth day of December next, as a day of Prayer and Thanksgiving, and I do so in the earnest hope and in the confident expectation that all, except such as may be withheld by scruples of conscience, will on that day assemble in their respective places of

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worship, and present the sublime spectacle of a whole people offering the homage of devout and grateful hearts to that great and good Being from whose bounty we derive all that we enjoy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the privy [L. s.] seal, at the city of Albany, this twenty-third day of October, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven.

DE WITT CLINTON.

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PROCLAMATION

By Nathaniel Pitcher, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New York.*

WHEREAS the continued goodness of Almighty God to the people of this State, in permitting us to enjoy the blessings of republican institutions, in crowning the year with his mercy, by the abundant production of the "kindly fruits of the earth," in the diffusion of moral instruction and science, by sustaining our colleges, academies, and sabbath and common school institutions; in continuing to us the light of revelation, and the consolation and toleration of religious profession and worship—these and numberless other evidences of divine favor, demand from us a public expression of devout and grateful acknowledgment. I do therefore, in accordance with custom, and under a solemn sense of public duty, recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Thursday the fourth day of December next, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving; and in so doing, I indulge the confident expectation, that all with the exception of those who may be restrained by con-

* Lieut. Gov. Pitcher acted as Governor from the death of Gov. De Witt Clinton, Feb. 11, 1828, till the end of the year.

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scientious scruples, will assemble on that day in their respective places of public worship, and with devout and grateful hearts present their thank-offering to Almighty God, for the multiplied blessings which we are permitted to enjoy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy
[L. S.] seal of the State, at the city of Albany, the twenty-seventh day of October, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight.

NATHANIEL PITCHER.

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PROCLAMATION

By Enos T. Throop, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New York, administering the government thereof.*

It has pleased Almighty God to distinguish the people of this State by unmerited and unwonted favors. He has given us strength and wisdom, and by his guidance we have become members of a national and state government which secures to us safety from foreign aggression, and to each of us the enjoyment of our due, civil rights, and freedom of religious opinion. By his great goodness, our hearts have been disposed to cultivate the growth of knowledge and virtue, by the instrumentality of public worship, of schools, and of benevolent and charitable institutions, and to consider them as means of individual happiness and national prosperity.

He has been graciously pleased to vouchsafe to us during the past year, a continuance of peace with other nations, tranquillity at home, health, and abundant harvests.

For these, and for his innumerable favors to

* Lieut. Gov. Throop acted as Governor from the resignation of Gov. Van Buren, March 12, 1829, till the expiration of the term.

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us, as a people and as a nation, and that he may continue to us his mercy and protection, it is our bounden duty with grateful hearts, solemnly and publicly to render our united and fervent thanks to our Divine Creator, Guide and Protector.

I do therefore, in conformity to usage, recommend to the good people of this State, the observance of Thursday the third day of December next, as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my name, and the privy seal of the
[L. S.] State, this twenty-sixth day of October, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine.

ENOS T. THROOP.

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PROCLAMATION

By Enos T. Throop, Governor of the State of New York, administering the government thereof.

WHEREAS the wisdom of man is but a small light shining around his footsteps, shewing the things that are near, while all beyond is shrouded in darkness, manifesting our dependence upon a God of infinite wisdom, the Creator and Guide of all things, who directs our path through the dark and unseen places, and to ends which human wisdom foresees not, and evincing that our condition here, whether of good or evil, is according to his good pleasure operating upon our hearts and minds, and not according to our own will: Wherefore it is becoming, not only in individuals but in nations, to prostrate themselves before him, in humble thankfulness for all the good things which he hath vouchsafed to them, and to implore the continuance of his divine favor, according to his good pleasure. Deeply impressed with these truths, and in conformity to usage, I do hereby appoint and set apart, Thursday the ninth day of December next, and recommend its observance throughout the

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State in Religious Exercises and Thanksgiving to Almighty God; for having continued his signal favor to the people of this State and these United States, during the past year, and especially for having given to us fruitful and healthful seasons, to the comfort and nourishment of our bodies; for having continued in us exertions for the general diffusion of knowledge and learning, to the enlightenment of our minds, and fitting us for the enjoyment of our social advantages, and the preservation of our inestimable privileges as a nation; for having cultivated in us a spirit of charity, and an enlightened sense of religious and moral duties, and preserved to us an unrestrained religious worship, according to the dictates of our conscience, whereby we are saved from the bigotry, fanaticism, and cruel persecutions for opinion's sake, which in other less enlightened times and countries have drenched the altars of patriotism and true religion with the blood of human sacrifices; for having protected us from foreign wars and intestine commotions, and as friends of the human race let us thank him for the signal manifestations of his mercy towards the oppressed people of other nations, by enlightening them to a knowledge of their rights, and inspiring them with a will to repose them in a spirit of mercy and forbearance. Finally, let our devout aspirations to the God

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of all mercies be, that he will sanction to us and to all men, the beneficent dispensations of his providence.

Given under my hand, and the privy seal, at the city of Albany, the sixth day of
[L. S.] November, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and thirty.

ENOS T. THROOP.

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PROCLAMATION

By Enos T. Throop, Governor of the State of New York.

BEING conscious that a periodical public oblation of our hearts to Almighty God is acceptable to him, and a pleasing duty, and that it is highly becoming in nations recipients of his favors, as well as individuals, I do in humble reverence, and in conformity to usage, recommend to the people of this State, the observance of Thursday the eighth day of December next, as a day of Prayer and Thanksgiving. Let us with united hearts on that day, renew to him our acknowledgments of gratitude, for those peculiar national institutions by which he has distinguished us among the nations of the earth, and whereby all our civil and religious rights are secured; and for having established schools among us, and other means of public instruction, whereby our capacity for enjoyment is enlarged, and we are enabled better to defend our civil and social privileges: and among the innumerable favors which we have received from his bountiful providence during the past year, let us particularly thank him for healthful and fruitful seasons, for the growing spirit of laudable enterprise and diver-

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sified industry, and for his remarkable interposition in staying the desolating moral pestilence of intemperate drinking.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the privy seal of
[L. s.] the State, this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one.

ENOS T. THROOP.

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PROCLAMATION

By Enos T. Throop, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS it is our duty, publicly and with reverence and gratitude, to acknowledge our dependence upon Almighty God, the Exhaustless Fountain of love and benevolence. And whereas usage has indicated the festive season of ingathering, when our garners are filled with the fruits of the earth, and our hearts with joy and thankfulness, as the proper time to present to him a thank offering and a feast offering, and to serve him with gladness, and to come into his presence with a song—I do therefore appoint and set apart Thursday, the thirteenth day of December next, and recommend its observance by the people of this State, in the accustomed Religious Solemnities, Festivities and Thanksgiving. On that day, while a sense of piety shall direct the exuberance of feeling into consecrated channels, let us sacrifice our animosities at the altar and the festive board, and as a united people, thank our Heavenly Father for the innumerable blessings which he has been pleased to bestow upon us; and especially for the abundance which has crowned the labors of the husbandman for

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the past year; for our civil and religious institutions, so constituted as to exempt us from the evils of tyranny, anarchy and intolerance; for our peaceful and growing commerce; for the multiplication of productive industry; for the increase of the means of intellectual and moral instruction; and while we acknowledge his chastening hand in the pestilence which recently abode with us for a season, in its march throughout the world, let us acknowledge with gratitude his goodness for having now removed it beyond our borders, and for the blessings which he mingled in this cup of afflictions. And in our aspirations, let us beseech him to banish from among us, superstition, contention, ignorance and ill will, and hasten that day which we hope is within the plan of his providence, and now dawns upon us, when the human understanding shall be so enlarged, and the passions of men so chastened, that war shall cease; that civil institutions, founded on the principles of equality, shall be adopted by all nations; and that the love of man for his fellow creature, shall be manifested in deeds of kindness and benevolence.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the privy seal of
[L. S.] the State, this fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

ENOS T. THROOP.

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PROCLAMATION

By William L. Marcy, Governor of the State of New York.

DURING the present year, the Beneficent Ruler of the Universe has been pleased to dispense in a liberal manner his bounties and his blessings to the people of this State. Peace and tranquillity have prevailed throughout its whole extent; our free institutions securing to us the full enjoyment of our civil rights, and religious privileges are unimpared; our establishments for education continue to dispense their treasures of knowledge to the rising generation; our harvests have been unusually abundant, and industry, in all the diversified pursuits of our citizens, has been bountifully rewarded. While many other parts of our common country have been afflicted with a most destructive pestilence, the inhabitants of this State have been exempted by a kind Providence from its visitation, and signally blessed with an unwonted degree of health. Entertaining sentiments becoming a moral and religious people, it is our sacred and solemn duty to express, in a public manner, the homage and gratitude due to our Divine Benefactor, for

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the manifold favors he has been pleased to bestow upon us.

I do, therefore, in conformity to usage, most respectfully recommend Thursday, the fifth day of December next, to be observed as a day of Public Prayer and Thanksgiving by the people of this State.

Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State, at Albany, this twenty-[L. S.] eighth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

WILLIAM L. MARCY.

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PROCLAMATION

By William L. Marcy, Governor of the State of New York.

For the purpose of rendering devout acknowledgments unto the Ruler of Nations, for the dispensation of his numerous favors, vouchsafed to the people of this State during the past season, I do hereby, in compliance with established usage, recommend Thursday, the eleventh day of December next, to be observed by them as a day of Public Thanksgiving.

In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name, and affixed the privy seal of the
[L. s.] State, this twenty-seventh day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four.

WILLIAM L. MARCY.

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PROCLAMATION

By William L. Marcy, Governor of the State of New York.

THE people of this State, throughout the whole period of their existence, as a political community, have been in a special manner the object of divine favor. The same Almighty Arm which protected and sustained our forefathers, has also been our shield of defence; the same Bountiful Hand which administered temporal and spiritual blessings to them, has been more abundant in good gifts to us. In the dispensations of Divine Providence towards us during the past year, we have been mercifully exempted from all those calamities by which nations are frequently visited; peace and contentment have prevailed among us; we have been favored with a season of health and plenty; our civil and religious rights have been enjoyed without molestation; moral and intellectual improvement has rapidly advanced; the spirit of enterprise has been active in multiplying the means of social happiness, and industry, in all its various branches, has received appropriate rewards. All things essential to our prosperity have been graciously offered for our acceptance. Surrounded as we are, by numerous

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and signal manifestations of divine goodness towards us, as individuals, and in our social and political relations, it behoves us to render to our Beneficent Benefactor, the tribute of our love and gratitude.

I do, therefore, in conformity to established usage, appoint Thursday, the tenth day of December next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving, and recommend that it be observed as such, throughout the State, with due solemnities.

Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State, at Albany, this thirty-first [L. S.] day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

WILLIAM L. MARCY.

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PROCLAMATION

By William L. Marcy, Governor of the State of New York.

It has pleased the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, to dispense to the people of this State, during the past season, his blessings and his bounties in rich abundance; and it is their reasonable duty to render to him the tribute of gratitude and thankfulness, for his kind and gracious dealings with them, as individuals, and in their social and civil relations.

I do, therefore, in conformity with established usage, designate Thursday, the fifteenth day of December next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving, and do recommend its due observance as such, throughout this State.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy
[L. S.] seal of the State, this fifth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

WILLIAM L. MARCY.

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PROCLAMATION

By William L. Marcy, Governor of the State of New York.

During the past season, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, has liberally dispensed his benefactions to the people of this State. Together with the full enjoyment of the rights of conscience, with public tranquillity and the increase and diffusion of knowledge, they continue to be blessed with civil institutions, admirably calculated to secure in the highest degree their social happiness and the benefits of a Free Government. The dealings of Divine Providence, as individuals and as a political community, have been in other respects distinguished by kindness and liberality. We have been mercifully exempted from those calamities which are frequently permitted to afflict nations; we have enjoyed an unusual degree of public health, and been favored with a fruitful season and plenteous harvests. If in the midst of this liberal ministration to our necessities and comforts, by our Beneficent Creator, our hearts are not fully satisfied, then, indeed, have our inordinate desires turned us from the path of duty and happiness, and the chidings of his Providence, by reproving our too

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eager passion for gain, repressing our extravagance, and teaching us salutary lessons of humility, moderation and wisdom, are, if rightfully considered, but the merciful manifestations of his paternal goodness.

In view of the numerous favors and blessings with which the past year has been crowned, our thoughts should naturally be directed to our Munificent Benefactor, and our hearts moved to expressions of gratitude and thankfulness.

I do, therefore, in conformity to established usage, appoint Thursday, the thirtieth November next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving, and respectfully recommend its due observance as such, by the good people of this State.

Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State, at Albany, this thirtieth [L. S.] day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.

WILLIAM L. MARCY.

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PROCLAMATION

By William L. Marcy, Governor of the State of New York.

To acknowledge the bounties of the Giver of All Good, and to cherish grateful recollections of his beneficence, is eminently worthy of an intelligent and highly favored people. Whether we contemplate our condition with reference to the number and magnitude of the benefits we have received, or in contrast with less favored portions of the earth, we find abundant reasons for devout thankfulness to the Sovereign Arbiter of Nations. In an especial manner are we furnished with persuasive motives to gratitude in his providential dealings with us during the past season. Our fields have been fertilized by the early and the latter rains, the toils of the husbandman have been rewarded with plentiful harvests: our habitations have been preserved in peace, and our families have been protected from the pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day; the clouds, which for a time gathered gloomily over us, have passed away, and we are again restored to individual and national prosperity; we still continue in the full enjoyment of those civil, social and re-

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ligious rights and privileges which so highly distinguish us as a people.

I do therefore in conformity to established usage designate Thursday, the twenty ninth day of November inst., to be observed as a day of Public Thanksgiving, and to recommend to the good people of the state to unite in offering the tribute of grateful hearts to their Divine Benefactor, for the numerous blessings which he has mercifully vouchsafed to them during the past year.

Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State the fifth day of November, in
[L. S.] the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

W. L. MARCY.

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PROCLAMATION

By William H. Seward, Governor of the State of New York.

WHEREAS the Executive Authority of this State has been accustomed, with the consent of the people, to designate a day for the annual offerings of Thanksgiving and Prayer.

And whereas, Almighty God hath not withdrawn from us the protection and beneficence extended to our forefathers, but hath remembered us in mercy during the past year; hath sent us abundant harvests, to reward the labors of the husbandman and supply the wants of the poor; hath averted from us the calamities of war and pestilence; hath suffered us to maintain and more firmly establish republican institutions, securing a larger measure of civil and religious liberty, social tranquillity and domestic happiness, than has ever before been enjoyed by any people; hath crowned with good success the means which have been employed by the State, by associations and by individuals, for the development of the abounding resources of our country, the relief of the unfortunate, the reformation of the vicious, the improvement of education, the cultivation of

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science, the perfection of the arts, and the maintenance of the Christian religion.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of said custom, I do hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-eighth day of November next, to be observed throughout this State, as a day of Public Worship, Thanksgiving and Prayer. I recommend to my fellow citizens, that they abstain on that day from all secular employments, inconsistent with a right and acceptable discharge of these solemn services; that they assemble in their usual places of public worship, and there, in the forms and manner approved by their consciences, offer their humble and grateful acknowledgments to the God of the Universe, celebrate his praise, invoke his continued protection and favor, and implore his guidance in the ways of wisdom and virtue; well knowing that his Providence is as impartial as it is beneficent. Let us also beseech him to deliver the oppressed throughout the world, and vouchsafe to all mankind the privileges of civil and religious liberty, and the knowledge, influences and blessed hopes of the gospel of his Son our Savior.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the privy seal of the State to be hereunto affixed, at the city of Albany, on the [L. s.] twenty-second day of October, in the year of our Lord 1839, and of American Indepence the sixty-fourth.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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PROCLAMATION

By William H. Seward, Governor of the State of New York.

God has been pleased to preserve our lives during another year, and to bless our land and make it very plenteous. Health, peace and liberty have dwelt among us, and religion has ministered her divine councils and consolations. No danger has menaced us from abroad, nor has the alarm of intestine commotion or tumult disturbed the quiet of our dwellings. The clouds have not withheld from the earth their timely rain, nor the sun its genial heat. The plow has not been stayed in the furrow, nor has blight or mildew diminished the abundant harvest. We have exhibited to the world the sublime spectacle, of millions of freemen carefully discussing the measures and policy which concern their welfare, and peacefully committing the precious trust of their interests and hopes to the care of their chosen magistrates. While our confidence in the stability of republican institutions is thus strengthened, their benign operation has been manifested in the sway of mild and equal laws, the enjoyment of equal privileges by all classes of citizens, the security of personal rights, and the

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intellectual and moral improvement of society.

In remembrance of these signal and manifold blessings and privileges, it becomes us to lift up our hearts, and ascribe all the power and glory to Him who looketh down from heaven and considereth all them that dwell upon the earth. I do, therefore, in pursuance to a custom sanctioned by the people, set apart and appoint Thursday, the seventeenth day of December next, to be observed throughout this State, as a day for the usual offerings of Praise, Thanksgiving and Prayer. I respectfully recommend to my fellow citizens, to abstain from all secular occupations on that day, and gather themselves in their solemn assemblies, to render to our Heavenly Father the homage of hearts softened and warmed by his unbounded goodness; to commit to his tender care, the poor, the neglected and the oppressed and to supplicate a continuance of his favor to this people throughout all generations. However we may be separated by opinions or associations, all the cifizens of the Republic have equal political rights, and have the same motives to desire its peace, happiness and perpetual prosperity. The church of the living God is one, and embraces all those who in humility of spirit receive his holy faith, and through divine aid, seek to keep his commandments. Let us, therefore, in perfect harmony

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and charity, one with another, as patriots and Christians, implore him to sustain and bless all our civil and religious institutions, and to dispense to us abundantly that heavenly grace, which, with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, leads through the ways of virtue, here, to the blessed society of the redeemed in his everlasting kingdom.

Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this [L. S.] ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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PROCLAMATION

By William H. Seward, Governor of the State of New York.

In the year which is about to close, Divine Providence hath been pleased, as in former years, to vouchsafe to the inhabitants of this State, the various fruits of the earth in their proper seasons—health, security and tranquillity—prosperous commerce and peaceful relations with foreign countries—freedom of conscience—religious instruction and consolation; moral, social and intellectual improvement—and laws established and administered by representatives chosen by the people.

I do, therefore, appoint Thursday, the ninth day of December next, to be set apart for the customary annual offerings of Public Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, for all his mercies and blessings; and I recommend that the occasion be observed throughout the Commonwealth, with the humility, devotion and gratitude which become a free and favored Christian people.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the privy seal of the said State to be annexed, at the city [L. S.] of Albany, this 25th day of October, 1841, and of American Independence the sixty-sixth.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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PROCLAMATION

By William H. Seward, Governor of the State of New York.

THURSDAY, the eighth day of December next, is hereby appointed to be observed by the people of this State, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, for the manifold blessings of the year. We have tilled the earth in safety and gathered plentiful harvests; relieved labor by inventions of art and new applications of science; brought to successful termination works of physical improvement, designed to promote social intercourse, and to guard against accidents to human life and augment its enjoyments; rendered our system of intellectual and moral instruction more equal and efficient, and acquired comprehensive knowledge of the agricultural, forest and mineral resources, which Providence has supplied within the territory assigned for our habitation. The savage warfare, which so long prevailed on the southern border of our country, scarcely less painful to humanity, whether our arms were victorious or unsuccessful against a rude and injured people, has ceased.* Commotions which threatened to involve a sister State, and even the whole Ameri-

* The Indian war in Florida was officially announced as closed, August 14, 1842.

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can family, in the calamities of civil war, and thus repress the growing confidence of mankind in their capacity for self-government, have peacefully subsided;* and our controversies with a distinguished European nation, have been adjusted by a treaty,† securing reciprocal advantages, and directing the efforts of both States to the removal of a great reproach of Christendom, by the extirpation of the slave trade. Philanthropy has not abated her zeal within our borders while extending her visitations to distant regions, and the labors of philosophy throughout the civilized world, have been crowned with discoveries tending to ameliorate human life, and elevate the dignity of mankind.

Let us reverently acknowledge, that these and all the blessings that we enjoy, descend from Him, by whom the nations of the earth are governed in righteousness, and all human affairs are regulated and controlled with infinite wisdom and mercy.

Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this
[L. S.] 17th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1842, and in the sixty-seventh year of American Independence.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

* Alluding to the Rhode Island controversy.

† The treaty with England of this year, was ratified August 20, 1842.

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PROCLAMATION

By William C. Bouck, Governor of the State of New York.

In obedience to that high sense of gratitude due the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, I do hereby designate Thursday, the 14th day of December next, to be observed by the people of this State as a day of Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the numerous and unmerited blessings of the year.

I feel assured that this act of public duty is in accordance with the wishes of the people, and will meet with universal acquiescence.

As a people, we have great reason to be thankful, and to praise the Almighty Dispenser of all Good, for the continued smiles of his providence on our State and Nation.

During the past year we have been permitted to enjoy our religious and political privileges unmolested. We have been exempt from those ravages of malignant diseases, which sometimes afflict a people. The season has been highly propitious, and seldom has the harvest been more abundant. As a crowning blessing, the Spirit of the Lord has revived the hearts of Christians, and brought to saving knowledge many who knew not God.

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For the distinguished blessings we have enjoyed, we should raise our hearts in humble adoration to our Father in Heaven: thereby presenting to the world the imposing spectacle of the entire population of a great State abstaining from all secular engagements on the day designated, and devoting themselves to the service of the Almighty. We should always remember that "righteousness exalteth a nation."

Given under my hand, and the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this tenth [L. S.] day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-three.

WM. C. BOUCK.

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PROCLAMATION

By William C. Bouck, Governor of the State of New York.

ANOTHER year has nearly drawn to a close, and surrounded as we are by the unnumbered blessings of God's Providence and Grace, nothing can be more becoming and proper than to lay aside all secular engagements, and devote at least one day of the many we are allowed to call our own, to devout Thanksgiving and Praise to the Author of the constant and unmerited mercies we, as a people, are permitted to enjoy.

I do, therefore, most cordially recommend, that Thursday, the twelfth day of December next, be observed throughout the State, as a day of Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving to our great Father in Heaven, our gracious Benefactor and Friend.

By his merciful Providence, we have been permitted to enjoy the comforts of life, and our religious, social and political privileges have been continued to us. During the past year we have been exempt from the ravages of malignant disease, and the earth has yielded her increase; a growing prosperity has been felt in all the business relations of life, and the blessed

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gospel has been gradually but surely extending its benign influence. Actuated by its diffusive benevolence, Christian missionaries have not only labored among the waste and desolate places at home, but have gone forth to proclaim "Christ and him crucified" to the dark and benighted regions of the earth; education, in all its departments, is diffusing an increase of knowledge among all classes of the community; temperance, the handmaid of religion, is making deeper and wider impressions, and sending joy and comfort into many desolate households, while peace and prosperity are dwelling in our midst.

Let us, then, as one people, on the day designated, lay aside the care and ordinary business of life, and give thanks unto God. And with our Thanksgiving, let us mingle our Prayers for a continuance of the numerous blessings we enjoy, and especially that there may be an outpouring of the Spirit of God, to revive pure and undefiled religion among us—the best security of our civil and political institutions.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my name and the privy seal of the
[L. s.] State, this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

WILLIAM C. BOUCK.

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PROCLAMATION

By Silas Wright, Governor of the State of New York.

A USAGE which has the approbation of a quarter of a century, calls upon me, at this period of the year, to name a day to be observed by the People of this State, as a day of Public Thanksgiving. The uniformity in the time heretofore designated, throughout the period referred to, induces me to name Thursday, the fourth day of December next, as the Thanksgiving day for this State for the present year.

Life and health are enduring causes for thankfulness to the Father of Life and the Fountain of Health, from all the living.

Free, civil institutions, based upon the true principles of popular sovereignty, and extending to every individual equal personal liberty, and to all the largest measure of that liberty consistent with that peace and order and personal security, present a cause for devout thankfulness to the Ruler of Nations, from every people who enjoy these blessings.

The plentiful fruits of the earth, which in our State and Country furnish an abundance for the wants of all, call for daily thankfulness, and render it peculiarly appropriate, that an-

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nually, as these fruits are yielded, a Christian people should unite in a tribute of Thanksgiving to Him, who tempers the seasons, and blesses the earth and makes it fruitful.

In addition to these universal causes for thankfulness, if each individual will summon up the recollection of the almost innumerable personal and social blessings which the year has brought with it, all the people of this State will be willing, with one heart, to set apart one day, for the united expression of their thanks, for the many and signal blessings of this year, abundantly bestowed upon them and their country by the Great Author of every temporal and spiritual blessing.

I respectfully recommend the day I have named, to be thus set apart for this grateful service and duty, and that the people of the State suspend their business avocations, and assemble in their usual places of religious worship, that the temples which have resounded with supplications for the year, may echo back Thanksgiving to Him who has so bountifully responded to our petitions, and so paternally provided for our necessities.

Exercises, such as these, entered into in the spirit and with the feelings which these considerations should excite, can not fail to turn the mind to the lively remembrance of the immeasurably greater blessings of the redemption through a Savior, and the revelation to fallen

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man of the way of salvation; blessings for which the human heart can never be sufficiently thankful.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed the privy seal of the State. Witness my hand at the city of Albany, this
[L. S.] fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

SILAS WRIGHT.

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PROCLAMATION

By Silas Wright, Governor of the State.

THE year eighteen hundred and forty-six draws to a close. Its seasons have been uncommonly propitious, and its harvests are realized. Unusual health has blessed our State and Country, and the teeming earth has yielded its abundance to supply our necessities and minister to our comforts.

The wave of passion, which, during the past year, rolled over some of our counties, has subsided, and internal peace is restored to our citizens and tranquillity to our firesides.*

The most sublime spectacle connected with civil government is now exhibiting before us. The representatives of the sovereignty of our people, assembled to take in pieces and reconstruct the frame work of the State Government, have discharged the high trust, and returned to

* Referring to the Anti-rent excitement in several of the counties, and the combination of armed men in disguise, to resist civil process. The murder of Deputy Sheriff Steele, in Delaware county, which occured in August, was followed by a Proclamation of the Governor, declaring the county in a state of insurrection. A military force was called out, and for a time, a civil war appeared inevitable, but the supremacy of the law was ultimately asserted without further effusion of blood.

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their constituents and to their private duties, without having excited passion, alarm or apprehension in the community; and our freemen are examining their labors, and preparing to pass a verdict of approbation or rejection upon their work, with a vigilance inspired by a pervading patriotism, and with a calmness and confidence which free institutions can alone impart.* Not an individual in the State apprehends an encroachment upon his just rights, or an abridgment of his civil and religious privileges, from this peaceful and voluntary revolution of his government. Stronger evidences of high intelligence and sound morality in a people can not be afforded.

These, and innumerable other temporal blessings of a kindred character, constantly flowing upon our State and its citizens, call for continued thankfulness to the Bountiful Giver of every blessing.

The gift of a Savior, and the full light of divine revelation, are spiritual blessings, which should awaken to expressions of devout thankfulness the hearts and the voices of a Christian people.

I respectfully recommend Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be ob-

* The Constitutional Convention of this year, assembled June 1st, and adjourned October 9th. The amended constitution was adopted, November 3, 1846, by a vote of 221,528 to 92,436.

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served as a day of Public Thanksgiving; that the people of the State, abstaining from their ordinary business avocations, may assemble at their usual places of religious worship, and uniting with each other, and with their fellow citizens of many of the other States, may pay their tribute of thanks to the Author of these and all temporal and spiritual good gifts; and may pour out their hearts in Prayer to him, that his rich smiles may be continued to our country, and that the signal blessings of this year may be crowned by the termination of our existing wars, in an honorable and just peace.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the privy seal of the State to be hereunto affixed. Witness my hand at the city [L. S.] of Albany, the nineteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

SILAS WRIGHT.

By order.

HORACE MOODY, Private Secretary.

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PROCLAMATION

By John Young, Governor of the State of New York.

A DAY of Public Thanksgiving is due to Almighty God for blessings bestowed upon the People of this State during the past year.

While a sanguinary war has been raging upon our national frontier—while the principal city of a sister state, has been scourged with a pestilence that walketh at noon-day,* and while gaunt famine and disease afflict the fairest portion of the mother country,† the State of New York presents a gladsome picture of universal happiness and prosperity. Seed time and harvest have been continued to the husbandman—the laborer and the artisan have not sought in vain for employment—the ships of the merchant have traded in peace with the nations of the earth, and plenty has crowned the efforts of all classes of society.

The blessing of free government—the means of universal education—the security of person and property, and the supremacy of law and

* The yellow fever prevailed in New Orleans this year.

† The famine in Ireland of this year, from the failure of the potato crop, enlisted the sympathies and aid of our citizens generally.

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order, have been vouchsafed to us in an eminent degree.

For all these, and for other good gifts, we are indebted to that Providence whose bounty and protection are conferred upon all, without regard to country or condition.

I therefore respectfully recommend to the People of this State, to observe the twenty-fifth day of November next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving; to abstain on that day from their usual avocations, and mingle, with their Thanksgivings, Prayers to Heaven for the continuance of its smiles, and for its protection against famine, diseases and crime.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the privy seal of the State to be hereunto affixed. Witness my hand, at the city
[L. S.] of Albany, this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

JOHN YOUNG.

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PROCLAMATION

By John Young, Governor of the State of New York.

THE year which will soon be added to the past, has been to the People of this State eminently auspicious. Plenty has crowned our harvests—labor has been justly rewarded, and everything around us evidences a healthy and enduring prosperty. War, with all its attendant evils has passed away, and Peace as honorable as welcome, has been restored.* The means of education, and all the advantages of intellectual progression have been enjoyed by us in an eminent degree; and the future is full of hope and promise.

As a Christian people, we are admonished that these blessings are the gift of a Beneficent God, and while we thus rejoice in his bounty, we should not forget the homage due from grateful hearts.

I, therefore, respectfully recommend to the People of this State, to set apart Thursday, the twenty-third day of November next, to be observed as a day of Public Thanksgiving to Al-

* Peace with Mexico was settled by the treaty of Queretaro, May 30th, and proclaimed by the President, July 4th, 1848.

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mighty God; and that with such Thanksgiving be mingled Prayers to Him who holds in his hands the destinies of nations, for the continuance of those blessings, which have been and still are so abundantly showered upon us.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the privy seal of the State to be hereunto affixed. Witness my hand, at the city [L. S.] of Albany, this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred forty-eight.

JOHN YOUNG.

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PROCLAMATION

By Hamilton Fish, Governor of the State of New York.

A SENSE of gratitude to Almighty God for his numerous manifestations of goodness during the past year, calls for a public expression of thanks from a people who have experienced the full measures of blessings which have been extended to us.

Peace and quiet have reigned throughout our land. The labors of the husbandman have been rewarded in the returns of the earth. Industry has pursued its accustomed walks in all its varied employments, and its votaries have enjoyed honest and well earned rewards. Civil and religious liberty continue to be vouchsafed to all within our borders—and the blessings of the gospel are extended to all who desire to enjoy its comforts and its consolations. A few weeks since the whole nation in humble dependence, united in earnest prayer to Almighty God to withdraw the grievous pestilence which was ravaging the land; that visitation having passed, and the blessings of public health restored, it becomes a grateful and Christian people to

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acknowledge these mercies and to render thanks to their Bountiful Giver.*

I do therefore designate Thursday, the twenty-ninth day of November, instant, and do recommend its observance by the People of this State as a day of Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name, and affixed the privy seal of
[L. S.] the State, at the city of Albany, this first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

HAMILTON FISH.

* The cholera appeared in New Orleans in the fall of 1848, and up to January 8, 1849, 1189 deaths had occurred. It again appeared in March, and from the third of that month to the 28th of April, 1077 died. It was also very fatal at St. Louis, Cincinnati, and other western cities; and in New York, Philadelphia, and other cities in the north. President Tyler issued a Proclamation for a National Fast, to be held on the first Friday in August.

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PROCLAMATION

By Hamilton Fish, Governor of the State of New York.

THE mercies of All-kind Providence call for an acknowledgment of gratitude and dependence from the creatures of his bounties.

The year which is about to close has been marked by innumerable blessings to us as a nation. An abundant harvest and profitable labor has brought rich rewards to honest industry. Peace and tranquillity are established at home; and no discord disturbs our relations abroad. Health, prosperity and abundance have been freely vouchsafed to us. Civil and religious liberty prevail throughout the length and breadth of the land. And to all is secured the free exercise of the worship of their Creator according to their own faith. And on this occasion we should not forget that while an Inscrutable Providence has seen fit to remove during the past year the Chief Magistrate of our Union,* that same Providence has preserved us under the trial, a free and an united people, has saved us from anarchy or civil commotion, and has continued to us the mild operation of a

* President Zachary Tay- lor died July 9, 1850.

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government of our own adoption, and rulers of own choice.

I do, therefore, designate and recommend Thursday, the twelfth day of December next, to be observed by the good people of this State as a day of Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy [L. S.] seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this thirty-first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

HAMILTON FISH.

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PROCLAMATION

By Washington Hunt, Governor of the State of New York.

THE goodness of Almighty God has been signally manifested towards the People of this State during the present year.

The blessings of liberty, national tranquillity and public health, have been enjoyed without interruption. The fruits of the earth, in overflowing abundance, have rewarded the labors of the husbandman; public improvements have been advanced; the truths of knowledge and religion more widely diffused, and our republican institutions preserved and strengthened.

A just sense of these beneficent dispensations, should inspire universal gratitude towards our Divine Benefactor, and call forth appropriate demonstrations of homage and adoration.

Therefore, in compliance with usage, I respectfully recommend to the People of this State, the observance of Thursday, the twenty-seventh day of November next, as a day of Prayer, Thanksgiving and Praise.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my hand and the privy seal of the State, this sixteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

WASHINGTON HUNT.

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PROCLAMATION

By Washington Hunt, Governor of the State of New York.

THE varied blessings enjoyed by the People of this State, during the past year, call forth the grateful tribute of praise and devotion due to our Heavenly Father.

An abundant harvest crowning the labors of the husbandman, and filling the land with plenty; peace with all nations; the maintenance of social order and free institutions, imparting fresh vigor to the cause of civil liberty; the diffusion of religion and learning; the general prevalance of health; the merciful deliverance of the towns and cities, which were visited for a season by the destroying pestilence,* and the innumerable benefits which have been conferred upon our Commonwealth, proclaim the infinite goodness and protecting care of the Creator and Supreme Ruler of the Univese.

In compliance with established usage, I respectfully recommend to the people of this State, the observance of Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, as a day of Prayer and Thanksgiving.

* Cholera appeared in several parts of the State in this year, and 374 fatal cases occurred in the city of New York.

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In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this
[L. s.] sixteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two.

WASHINGTON HUNT.

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PROCLAMATION

By Horatio Seymour, Governor of the State of New York.

I HEREBY appoint Thursday, the twenty-fourth instant, as a day of Thanksgiving for the People of the State of New York. I recommend its observance by such religious assemblages and forms of worship as our citizens may severally deem appropriate; so that we may, as a commonwealth, with united hearts, humbly and gratefully render thanks to our Father in Heaven, for his benefits, and earnestly implore the continuance of his favor.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed by name and affixed the privy [L. S.] seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this fifth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

HORATIO SEYMOUR.

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PROCLAMATION

By Horatio Seymour, Governor of the State of New York.

An acknowledgment of our dependence upon God, and of our obligations to him, is at all times the duty of a Christian people. But when the Almighty has again crowned the year with his goodness, and we are enjoying the gathered fruits of his bounty, it is eminently fitting that we should offer the sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving.

I, therefore, appoint Thursday, the thirtieth day of November, for the appropriate service, and invite the Citizens of this State to assemble on that day in their respective places of worship, to present their acknowledgments to the Parent of the Universe for his multiplied mercies, and with our Thanksgiving, let us mingle Prayers for a continuance of the numerous blessings, we, as a people, enjoy; remembering that his wisdom alone can rightly direct, his power support, and his goodness give strength and security.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the privy
[L. S.] seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this tenth day of November, one thou-
thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

HORATIO SEYMOUR.

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PROCLAMATION

By Myron H. Clark, Governor of the State of New York.

THE Lord has been pleased to preserve our lives, and to deal graciously with us during another year. While sanguinary war has desolated the soil and saddened the homes of Europe, peace has sat by our firesides, and plenty has walked in our fields. The earth, parched with no drought, and chilled by no unwonted frosts, has yielded her increase bounteously. Pestilence, that has ravaged a neighboring coast, has been stayed at our threshold, and we have been enabled to minister to the wants and necessities of the suffering and afflicted. The commercial, mechanical and various pursuits of our citizens, have been crowned with usual success. Science and art have made liberal progress among us, and religion, unawed by power and unchecked by bigotry, has imparted her divine teachings and ministered her consolations. Our republican institutions, with good and wholesome laws, have helped to lighten the burdens of our people, and to advance the moral and intellectual improvement of society.

In grateful remembrance of our manifold

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blessings, it becomes us to lift up our hearts to God, the Giver of all Good, who carefully considereth all the dwellers upon the earth. I do, therefore, and in pursuance of established custom, set apart and appoint Thursday, the twenty-ninth day of November next, to be observed throughout the State, as a day of Praise, Thanksgiving and Prayer; and I respectfully recommend to my fellow citizens, to abstain from all secular occupations on that day, to gather themselves in their assemblies and render to our Heavenly Father the homage of grateful hearts, remembering before him the poor, the neglected and the oppressed. Let us, as patriots and Christians, implore him to bless our civil and religious institutions; and let us supplicate him to continue his favors to this people throughout all generations, and withal to dispense to us individually, that heavenly grace, which, with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and virtuous action here, will prepare us for his heavenly kingdom.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the privy
[L. S.] seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this twenty-seventh day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

MYRON H. CLARK.

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PROCLAMATION

By his Excellency Myron H. Clark, Governor of the State of New York.

THE year that is now drawing to a close, has been full of the mercies of our Heavenly Father. The Providence that dispenses the common blessings of life, has not withholden its bounties. Throughout the borders of our great and prosperous State, man has been preserved in the enjoyment of life and health. A plenteous harvest has been gathered in, while pestilence has only looked upon us and departed.* Never has labor received rewards more cheering; no fear of famine; no apprehension of industrial distress or commercial panic; no dread of impending social calamity mingles with our joy. Every department of honorable human culture has advanced. The arts that adorn a republican State have not languished. The love of freedom has burned with a brighter flame. Our political rights have remained safe in the care of an enlightened and order loving people. The public morals have not degene-

* Upon Staten Island, Long Island, in the vicinity of Fort Hamilton, Bay Ridge, Gowanus, and South Brooklyn, on Governor's Island and in New York city, 538 cases of yellow fever occurred this year.

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rated; and religion has not failed to cheer us by her consolations; to warn us by her solemn admonitions, and to inspire us by her eternal hopes.

In view of this wonderful display of the goodness of God, nothing can be more appropriate than a solemn act of Thanksgiving by the whole people.

I do, therefore, and in pursuance of established custom, set apart and appoint Thursday, the twentieth day of November next, to be observed throughout the State, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise. And I do respectfully request all the people of this State to abstain on that day from their usual avocations; to assemble according to their religious customs, and give thanks to Almighty God, the Giver of All Good. Let us implore him to smile upon our future and make us worthy of his bounties, and to protect and preserve those institutions which enable man to glorify God and to do his will upon earth. Let us especially thank him, that the great privilege of the American citizen, the untrammeled expression of opinion, the defence of truth and justice, and the denunciation of error and oppression is still ours. And while we pray for forgiveness of our sins, as citizens of the State, and subjects of the Divine Government, let us consecrate ourselves anew, on that day, to a religious life, which neglects no private or public obligation

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on earth, while it confides in the grace of God, for the hope of an immortal life in heaven.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this twenty-
[L. S.] first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

MYRON H. CLARK.

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PROCLAMATION

By his Excellency John A. King, Governor of the State of New York.

An humble sense of our dependence on Almighty God, for all the benefits and blessings we enjoy, renders it especially proper at this time, to return our thanks to the Great Giver of All Good for another year of plenteous harvests and general health. The promise that seed time and harvest shall never fail, has been most signally manifested during the past season, while health and contentment have dwelt within our borders. For these gracious manifestations of the power and goodness of God, I recommend the People of this State to assemble together, and to raise their united praise and thanks to him, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, that they have been permitted to witness and enjoy, during another year, the noble works of his hands—the fostering care of his goodness and mercy. To that end, and in accordance with the established usage, I hereby designate and appoint Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, as a day of General Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; and invite all to unite in so meet and right an acknow-

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ledgment of his power and goodness, and of our own helplessness.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany, this
[L. S.] seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

JOHN A. KING.

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PROCLAMATION

By John A. King, Governor of the State of New York.

ANOTHER year of abundant harvests, of general health, contentment and tranquillity admonishes us of our first and constant duty, to render thanks and praise to Him, who is the Gracious Author and Giver of those needful benefits, and the manifold blessings we have been permitted to enjoy; and especially are we called upon to acknowledge the power and goodness of our Almighty Father, the Lord and Giver of Life, that we have been spared for another brief space to receive his merciful care; to behold the wonderful works of his Providence, and to enjoy the advantages and security, which freedom, the public schools and equal laws, have established for ourselves and for our posterity. To that end, therefore, and in accordance with the acknowledged usage, I hereby designate and appoint Thursday, the eighteenth day of November next, as a day of General Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, and invite all to unite in so just an acknowledgment of his power and goodness, and of our dependence on his mercy and forbearance.

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In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my name and the privy seal of the State, at the city of Albany, the eleventh
[L. s.] day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

JOHN A. KING.

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PROCLAMATIONS OF GOVERNORS FOR 1858.

PROCLAMATION

By Andrew B. Moore, Governor of the State of Alabama.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 26, 1858.

WHEREAS, it is becoming that a people which recognizes the existence of God, and acknowledges its dependence upon his will, should unite as a community in some public demonstration of its gratitude for the blessings he has conferred, and to invoke a continuance of his favor.

Now therefore, I, Andrew B. Moore, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby designate and appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, for that purpose, and recommend and request that the good people of this Commonwealth, of every religious persuasion, should thereupon assemble at their respective places of worship, to return thanks to Almighty God for his manifold blessings;

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for the prosperity that has attended them in their daily vocations; for the peace and plenty which have prevailed among them, their general exemption from pestilence, and for the civil and religious liberty they possess; and that they should at the same time beseech him for their moral and intellectual advancement and material welfare, for their preservation from pestilence and famine, from internal broils and civil commotions of all kinds, from foreign and domestic war; that both the Federal and State Governments may be administered faithfully, with a view solely to the purposes of their establishment; that the hostile spirit which exists towards them in a portion of the States with which they have been united in a common government may abate and determine; but that should it continue and unfortunately progress until it shall become necessary for them to sever the bonds which now connect them, and resume the powers they have granted, that they may be so guided by his wisdom and strengthened by his aid that finally they may "establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity."

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, affixed at Montgomery, this [L. S.] twenty-sixth day of October, Anno Do-

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mini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of American Independence the eighty-third year.

ANDREW B. MOORE.

By the Governor.

J. H. WEAVER, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Lot M. Morrill, Governor of the State of Maine.

With the advice of the Executive Council, I appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

The continual bounties and manifold mercies of a Superintending and All-wise Providence, call for expressions of unfeigned gratitude and devout praise. The Infinite Father, eternal source of all good, hath crowned the year with abundance; let every heart glow with grateful love. A God of love, the fountain of all mercies, hath averted the causes of public distress; let all unite in songs of adoration.

All nature proclaims the goodness and glory of God, maker of heaven and earth; how fit that his intelligent offspring should acknowledge him in Thanksgiving and Praise, as the author of all needful blessings, and their dependence on his forbearance and loving kindness. Especially doth it become us as a people to join in public celebration of the Divine Goodness for the innumerable blessings vouchsafed at every period of our national existence; for

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succor in the struggle of our fathers for independence; for guidance in laying the foundation of free institutions; for fostering care in their infancy; for preservation amid perils internal and external, and for that paternal favor which has attended our country's progress from weakness and dependence to prosperity and power; and to render thanks, moreover, to the Great Ruler of the earth, for the precious boon of civil and religious liberty; for the multiplied agencies of social and political amelioration, and the means of spiritual improvement.

Given at the Council Chamber at Augusta, this fifteenth day of October, in the year
[L. S.] of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-third.

LOT M. MORRILL.

By the Governor.

NOAH SMITH, JR., Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By William Haile, Governor of the State of New Hampshire.

It has been customary for the Executive of the State to appoint and set apart one day from the ordinary industrial pursuits of life, to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for his continued goodness, and in token of our remembrance of the innumerable blessings conferred upon us as individuals, and upon our State.

In conformity, therefore, with the time-honored custom of our ancestors, and in unison with the general sentiment and wishes of the people, I do, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, to be observed thoroughout the State as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise. And on that day I would invite the people of the State to assemble in their respective places of public worship, and with united hearts render sincere praise to our Creator and Benefactor, that we have been preserved for another year to receive and enjoy the blessings which he has so freely and bountifully conferred upon

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us. And while we are thankful for past favors so signally displayed, and while we invoke a continuance of the same, let us endeavor to manifest by our lives that we are truly mindful of Him who is the Author and Giver of all needful blessings.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Concord, this twenty-ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-third.

WILLIAM HAILE.

By His Excellency the Governor, with advice of Council.

THOMAS L. TULLOCK, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Elisha Dyer, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

In accordance with a "time-honored custom," and as required by law, I, Elisha Dyer, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do issue this my Proclamation, appointing Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, for the innumerable blessings he has bestowed upon us, the people of this State, during the past year.

The preservation of our lives; the absence of contagious disease; the abundant harvest that has so richly rewarded the labors of the husbandman; the unrestricted enjoyment of our civil rights and religious privileges; the wide spread manifestations and presence of the Holy Spirit; the "means of grace and hope of glory" still offered us in the religion of Jesus Christ, all proclaim his dealings with us to have been in mercy and with love.

And we should also remember with gratitude that this day commemorates the departure in

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former years of those who would have oppressed our country, and the assurance, so recently given, that a bond of peace and fraternity may be established between all nations.

I, therefore, appeal with confidence to the grateful appreciation of these mercies, by my fellow-citizens throughout the State, for their co-operation in the proper observance of this day, by abstaining from all secular labor, in their attendance upon public worship, and by the dispensation of that sympathetic benevolence which the prostration of industry has demanded; thus cheering the hearts of the desolate, and making glad the homes of the destitute.

Given under my hand and seal of this State this twenty-seventh day of October, in
[L. S.] the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of Independence the eighty-third.

ELISHA DYER.

Attest.

JOHN R. BARTLETT, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency William A. Buckingham, Governor of the State of Connecticut.

It is both the duty and privilege of a Christian people, to recognize their obligations to the Bountiful Giver of All Good. During the past year we have experienced fresh and continued evidence of the divine favor and forbearance.

Therefore I have thought proper to recommend, and I do hereby recommend, that Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, be set apart as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise throughout this Commonwealth, and I earnestly invite and urge all persons to unite on that day in a public manifestation of their gratitude to Almighty God, who has crowned the year with his goodness; in that he has caused the earth to bring forth its fruits in their season; that he has averted from us the pestilence and the sword; that he has saved us from civil commotion and the supremacy of evil passions; that a deeper interest is felt in our public schools and seminaries of learning; that progress has been made in the arts, in the sciences and in civilization; that public justice

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is administered under the sanction of law; that freedom of opinion, of speech, and of conscience, is vindicated; that the love of civil and religious liberty is deeply seated in the hearts of the people; that the Independence of the States and of the Federal Union, is still preserved; and above all, that "He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities," but has magnified the riches of his grace in giving his Holy Spirit to revive his work and lead sinners to repentance; and that the door of mercy is yet open, through which the guilty and perishing may enter and obtain eternal life, by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ his Son.

Given under my hand and seal of the State, at the city of Norwich, this the twenty-second day of October, in the
[L. S.] year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-third.

WILLIAM A. BUCKINGHAM.

By His Excellency's command.

JOHN BOYD, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By William A. Newell, Governor of the State of New Jersey.

THE first and constant duty of a Christian people, is to recognize and acknowledge Almighty God as the Author and Giver of All Good, and to render to him humble and grateful homage for his merciful providence and care.

Another year passed in the enjoyment of the inestimable blessings of liberty, peace, health and plenty, calls for our renewed and devout expressions of gratitude and praise.

To this end, and in accordance with recognized usages, I hereby set apart and appoint Thursday, the eighteenth day of November next, to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, and do recommend to the people of this State, that forsaking all secular pursuits, they assemble in their several places of worship, and in sincerity of heart, offer thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for all the blessings of the past, and implore his loving kindness and protection for the future.

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Given under my hand and privy seal, at Trenton, this twenty-sixth day of Octo-
[L. S.] ber, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

WILLIAM A. NEWELL.

Attest.

ENOCH R. BORDEN, Private Secretary.

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PROCLAMATION

By Ashbel P. Willard, Governor of the State of Indiana.

A PEOPLE who have been as highly favored as those of Indiana, in all that makes them free, independent and prosperous, may well, upon one day in each year, assemble to return their thanks for these blessings to Almighty God.

I therefore appoint Thursday the twenty-fifth day of November, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer, urging all to assemble and return thanks to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, for the blessings he has conferred and the mercies he has extended to the People of the State of Indiana.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the State of Indiana. Done at the city of Indianapolis, this first day of
[L. S.] November, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, the year of the State the forty-third, and the Independence of the United States the eighty-third.

ASHBEL P. WILLARD.

By the Governor.

CYRUS L. DUNHAM, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Kinsley S. Bingham, Governor of the State of Michigan.

In conformity to a well-established custom, I have thought proper to designate, and I hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November, as a day of General Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God.

On that day I earnestly invite the good people of this State to assemble in their several places of worship, and make a public and grateful acknowledgment of the goodness of Divine Providence, which has brought us safely through another year with blessings and mercies innumerable. Let us be thankful for propitious seasons, in which the fruits of the earth have ripened and been gathered to supply our wants; for peace and tranquillity; for the tolerance of free thought and free discussion; for the unabated zeal which animates our people to educate and enlighten, and thus elevate and improve all classes; for the love of liberty and the desire to perpetuate free institutions which prevails; for the serious thought which so many have given to the duties they owe their Maker and their fellow-men, and

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which has prompted the resolution "to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God." And let us earnestly implore a continuance of the blessings which have been showered so abundantly upon our favored land.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed, at the
[L. s.] Capitol in Lansing, this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

KINSLEY S. BINGHAM.

By the Governor.

JOHN MCKINNEY, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By William H. Bissell, Governor of the State of Illinois.

THE year now about to close has been one of unnumbered blessings. And although in some portions of our State the harvest has been less bountiful than we have been accustomed to receive, and in some localities more sickness than usual has marked the season, yet upon the whole it has been a year of eminent prosperity to our citizens—such as should content and gladden every heart, and bow us to the earth in gratitude and thankfulness to Him who is the source of all goodness and wisdom.

Therefore that the good people of our State may join in offerings of Thanksgivings for our manifold blessings, I recommend Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, be set apart and observed by them as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer. Let, for that day, all temporal matters of business be suspended, all worldly affairs be set aside, and let us, with hearts of forgiveness, each towards all others, unite in Praise and Thanksgiving to God for the countless blessings of the closing year.

WILLIAH H. BISSELL.

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 26, 1858.

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PROCLAMATION

By Alexander W. Randall, Governor of the State of Wisconsin.

In the good Providence of God another year has passed, and its memories and its fruits have been gathered up. Toward all mankind he has exhibited abundant mercies, and upon us he has showered innumerable blessings. Seed time and harvest came and are gone, and the fat earth hath yielded its great harvests and its fruits, every tree and every plant bearing seed after its kind. His bow has been still in the clouds. His avenging rod has been withheld, and the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday have passed by us.

In science and art, and in intellectual development, the whole earth has been astonished at continued and startling successes and achievements. All trades, business avocations, professions and pursuits, have met everywhere with the success they have deserved. In all things commendable and useful, and of good report, we have met the approving smile of our Father who is in Heaven.

The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

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His work is honorable and glorious, and his righteousness endureth forever.

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

He hath given meat unto them that fear him; he will ever be mindful of his convenant.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do his commandments; his praise endureth forever.

For all his bounties and mercies, and loving kindness and care, we owe the homage of grateful, humble and obedient hearts. Following a venerable and wisely instituted custom, I, therefore, do here appoint, Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer and Praise. And I commend that day to the observance of the good people of this State, enjoining them to abstain thereon from all secular avocations and employments, excepting only works of necessity and mercy.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed.

[L. s.] Done at Madison, this twenty-seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight. ALEX. W. RANDALL.

J. D. RUGGLES, Ass't Sec'y of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By William F. Packer, Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.

In the Name and by the Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

The goodness of God to us as a people, calls for our public acknowledgment and our grateful praise. The past and the present are crowded with his blessings. Nothing has occurred to imperil the principles of civil and religious liberty upon which our government is based, or to interfere with its harmonious operations in all its departments. We are at peace with all foreign nations, and the noise of violence is unheard within our borders. While all enjoy perfect freedom of opinion, the genial influences of our free institutions, and the mild spirit of our holy religion, are more and more uniting us in one brotherhood. Our educational institutions are diffusing intelligence among the masses of our citizens, inducing a higher appreciation of their privileges, and a deeper sense of their obligations. Though in some localities the pestilence has prevailed, our

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country at large has enjoyed unusual health, and we are blessed with an abundance of all the necessaries and comforts of life. Our industrial pursuits are fast recovering from the torpor induced by the recent financial embarrassments; confidence is being restored, and business is resuming its wonted activity. Mercies crown all our relations in life, and the hopes of a glorious immortality wait to cheer and bless every heart.

Prompted by my own convictions of duty, and in conformity with the expressed wishes of many of my fellow-citizens, I, William F. Packer, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby appoint Thursday the eighteenth day of November next, to be observed as a day of General Thanksgiving and Prayer, and recommend to all our people that, setting aside on that day all worldly pursuits, they assemble in their respective places of worship, and unite in offering thanks to God for his goodness, imploring his gracious forgiveness and the continuance of his mercies. And while our hearts throb with gratitude to God, for his unnumbered blessings, let a liberal charity be extended to all upon whom have been laid the burdens of misfortune and want.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, at Harrisburg, this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of

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[L. S.] our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the Commonwealth the eighty-third.

WILLIAM F. PACKER.

WILLIAM M. HIESTER, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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PROCLAMATION

By Henry H. Sibley, Governor of the Territory of Minnesota.

THE Governor is required by law to "set apart one day in each year, as a day of solemn and Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God for his blessings to us as a State and Nation." I do, therefore, designate and set apart Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, for that purpose, and I earnestly recommend to the people of Minnesota that they abstain from all unnecessary secular employments on that day, and repair to their accustomed places of worship, to render thanks to the Most High, for all his mercies vouchsafed to us as a State and a Nation.

No business will be transacted on that day at any of the Departments of State Government.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed at St. Paul, the [L. S.] Capitol thereof, this thirtieth day of October, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the State the second.

HENRY H. SIBLEY.

By the Governor.

FRANCIS BAASEN, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Thomas H. Hicks, Governor of the State of Maryland.

State of Maryland, to wit:

In accordance with the custom hitherto prevailing in this State, and now sanctioned by the established usage, that some convenient day should be designated by the Chief Civil Authority to be observed as an especial day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the great benefits we have received at his hands; and in order to comply with the general expectation and desire of the inhabitants of this State who wish to unite, on such day, with the people of other States, in a service so just and becoming a Christian nation—I, Thomas Holliday Hicks, Governor of the State of Maryland, do hereby designate and appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, to be observed in this State as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer. And I invite and request the good people of this State to keep and observe that day, by abstaining from all secular employments; by uniting in their respective places of worship in public acts of devotion, in gratitude to the Creator for the benefits of the past, im-

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ploring his blessing and guidance in the future, and by joining there, or at their homes, in such services and exercises as are appropriate, on the anniversary of a great national deliverance, to a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, in the Executive Chamber [L. s.] at the city of Annapolis, this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-eight.

TH. H. HICKS.

By the Governor.

JAMES R. PARTRIDGE, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Ralph P. Lowe, Governor of the State of Iowa.

THE people of Iowa will do themselves an important service by observing Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, as a day of Praise and Thanksgiving to the Lord of Heaven; for that his name is still excellent in all the earth, and that he is never weary in the dispensation of his benefits and blessings.

If he has not filled our barns with a plentiful harvest the past season, he has nevertheless given us remarkable health, watered our beautiful plains bountifully with the showers of God, that they may be prepared for a greater increase of fruits.

By his Providence he has shown to us the strange evanescence of riches which have wings, the folly of attempting to fare sumptuously every day in vain schemes of speculation, instead of hardening the hand and moistening the brow with honest toil.

For these and all the other mercies of life, let us on that day go into our temples of worship, and fill them with thank-offerings to the God of our Fathers.

Praise him for giving to this whole land so

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largely of his spirit, by which the faces of multitudes have been turned heavenward.

Praise him for the Christian's faith, the spread of our holy religion, the triumphs of science and the progress making in the peaceful arts.

Praise him for the moral and social improvements of the race, by means of the intercommunication of telegraphs and railways.

Let the spirit of divine truth be invoked to push forward all the great enterprises of the age, and that the out-goings of the morning and evening may still continue to rejoice over us.

Given at Des Moines, under my hand and the great seal of the State of Iowa, the [L. S.] twenty-fifth day of October, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

RALPH P. LOWE.

By the Governor.

ELIJAH SELLS, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Robert M. Stewart, Governor of the State of Missouri.

THE end of another year is approaching. The gladsome season of opening buds, of refreshing showers, of genial sunshine, and of golden, waving fields of ripening cereals, have again been enjoyed, and are past. The husbandman is now garnering the rich stores with which a beneficent Providence is wont to bless the labors of our most highly favored people. Abundant harvests have rewarded the toils of the farmer, and success the honest earnest efforts of all classes. Health in the main, has given firmness to our footsteps, and vigor to the ultimatum of our purposes; and peace has imparted confidence to our numerous enterprises, and enhanced our blessings with the lull of security and the beatitude of contentment. Heaven has showered its noblest gifts upon us. Religious freedom, civil liberty, and the protection of individual rights, are the common heritage of all. Material wealth, intellectual attainments, and the rewards of virtue, are offered alike to all and they have not sought in vain who have sought aright.

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It is proper that we should recognize the hand which has so bountifully provided for our happiness. It is right that we should acknowledge our manifold obligations to the Giver of all we possess and enjoy. It is our highest privilege to cherish a sincrere gratitude to "Him in whom we live and move and have our being." I have deemed it proper, therefore, in conformity with a custom which, with a wise regard for our highest interests, may ever be observed, to name a day on which the people of the State may, with one accord, devoutly offer Public Thanksgiving to the Great Source of life and its blessings.

In considering the day most appropriate, the twenty-fifty day of November is suggested as eminently suitable. On that day, one thousand seven hundred eighty-three, the armed foe of American Independence evacuated the enemy's fortification and ceased to tread American soil. On that day the complete and perfect independence of the American nation was consummated, and liberty, civil and religious, unawed and undisputed, was proclaimed as the universal heritage of all those sheltered by the American Eagle, or who might thereafter seek an asylum under his ever expanding wings. On that day for the first time, undisturbed by the representative of despotism, and unrestrained by the terrors of any external foe, the fathers of American Freedom shouted from the hill-

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tops, the glad tidings that universal religious tolerance, civil liberty, and the political equality of our race, regardless of the land of birth, is established, and shall forever have an abiding place upon the earth; that henceforth the American Continent shall be an asylum for the oppressed—"the land of the free." What day so appropriate for the outpouring of the gratitude of the American people?

In view, therefore, of the many causes of gratitude which we continually enjoy, and of the occasion which renders eminently appropriate the day designated, I, Robert M. Stewart, Governor of the State of Missouri, do, by this proclamation, recommend to the people of this State, that they observe Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, as a fitting day for Thanksgiving to Almighty God, and in humble prayer to him for a continuance of his blessings.

In testimony whereof, I have hitherto set my hand, and caused the great seal of State to be affixed. Done at the city of Jefferson, this, the twenty-sixth day of
[L. s.] October, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, of the Independence of the United States the eighty-third, and of the State of Missouri the thirty-eight.

R. M. STEWART.

By the Governor,

B. F. MASSEY, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION*

By William McWillie, Governor of the State of Mississippi.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
City of Jackson, Miss.,
October 12, 1858.

WHEREAS it is a time-honored custom, and is of itself right and proper and becoming in a Christian people to observe annually a day of Thanksgiving, I do hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, for that purpose, and request its general observance throughout the State; for of all the people who have existed, none could so truly say, "The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage." Then let us unite in one General Thanksgiving, exclaiming with the Psalmist, "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks; yea, unto thee do we give thanks."

WM. McWILLIE.

* A note appended to this Proclamation, and signed by the Governor, requested all the Editors in the State to insert it in their papers until the twenty-fifth of November; and the Clergy generally to give it publicity.

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PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency, Nathaniel P. Banks, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By advice and with consent of the Council, I have appointed and do hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, a day of Thanksgiving and Praise; and I recommend to the people in observance of this ancient and religious custom of the founders of the Commonwealth, to suspend ordinary vocations and pleasures, and to assemble on that day in the usual places of public worship, for the purpose of acknowledging our continued dependence upon his Providence, and to render thanks to Almighty God for the manifold and signal mercies he has bestowed upon us, upon our fathers and upon the great family of man;

That he has preserved our people in health, in prosperity, in peace and in freedom:

That he has secured to us the rewards of intelligent industry, and the wealth of the seas, the soil and the seasons:

That he has crowned with success all our institutions and labors for the moral and mental culture of our people, and the relief of those oppressed in mind, in body or estate:

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That he has protected us, in the enjoyment of the privileges of a government, which combines with rare felicity the freedom of individuals, the supervision of the family, and the authority of the State:

That he has suppressed traditional feuds and assuaged the animosities of nations, leading them through the marvelous developments of science to cultivate a civilizing and Christian intercourse with each other, instead of increasing the atrocities of war, and strengthening the lust for dominion.

And especially that he has given us that fixed and abiding faith in his Providence, which sustains us amidst the direst calamities and teaches us that all events in life or death—sometimes interpreted by the imperfect wisdom of man as misfortune—may be overruled through his grace, for the welfare of his people, and the glory of his name.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the In-
[L. s.] dependence of the United States the eighty-third.

By his Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Council.

NATHANIEL P. BANKS.

OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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PROCLAMATION

By Joseph E. Brown, Governor of the State of Georgia.

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to smile upon us as a people, in much mercy, during another year; to crown our labors with rich blessings, to protect and preserve us from war, hunger and pestilence, and to pour out his holy spirit upon us in copious showers. And whereas, these manifestations of his protecting care and loving kindness, admonish us of the debt of gratitude, which we, as a people of a great State, owe to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, and of our duty to be humble and thankful, rendering praise to his great name, "in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things."

I do, therefore, issue this my Proclamation, setting apart Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of this present month, as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer. And I do earnestly invite the different congregations composing all the religious denominations of every name in this State, to meet at their respective places of worship, on that day, and unite in returning thanks and

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singing praises to our God for his wondrous works in the past, and in fervent prayer for his protecting care in the future, remembering that the Psalmist has said: "Let the people praise thee, then shall the earth yield her increase, and God, even our God, shall bless us."

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Executive Department, at the Capitol in Milledgeville, this fourth day of Novem-
[L. S.] ber, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-third.

JOSEPH E. BROWN.

By the Governor.

H. H. WATERS, Secretary, Ex. Dep.

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PROCLAMATION

By Salmon P. Chase, Governor of the State of Ohio.

In compliance with a joint resolution of the General Assembly, I, Salmon P. Chase, Governor of the State of Ohio, hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God: and I earnestly recommend to the people of the State the due observance of that day, by abstinence from ordinary labors, by public and private offerings of praise and gratitude for the multiform and manifold blessings and benefits, national, social and personal, which God hath been graciously pleased to bestow upon us, and by fervent prayers that he will cause his goodness to abound yet more and more towards us, protecting our whole country from foreign enemies and domestic dissensions, distinguishing by his favor, our State Institutions of Government, education and benevolence, and conducting each of us through blessed ways of penitence and faith to the glorious

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consummation of earthly hopes in heavenly rest.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Ohio, this eighth day of
[L. s.] November, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

S. P. CHASE.

By the Governor.

A. P. RUSSELL, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Robert F. W. Allston, Governor of the State of South Carolina.

WHEREAS, whilst we humbly bow before the Almighty, in meek submission to the will of his inscrutable Providence, chastening as with disappointment of some cherished hopes, with disease, with loss of faithful and valuable citizens, it becomes us as a people, now that the pestilence is stayed in the city, and the bright beams of the autumnal sun, with a bracing atmosphere, has dissipated the malaria of the fruitful country—now that the harvest-home is over, and the staple results of the seasons, wherever diminished, are still greater than we deserve at the hands of a bountiful Benefactor, "to assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary as well for the body as the soul."

Now, therefore, I deem it meet to appoint and set apart, Thursday, the twenty-fifth of November instant, as a day of Thanksgiving

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and Prayer. Accordingly, I do invite all persons on that day to assemble at their respective places of worship to return thanks for our numerous blessings past and present, and to pray for the divine guidance and blessing in our future life.

Given under my hand and seal of the State, at Columbia, this eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one
[L. S.] thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and in the eighty-third year of the American Independence.

ROBERT F. W. ALLSTON.

JAMES PATTERSON, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Madison S. Perry, Governor of the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, it is right and proper for States as well as individuals, to return thanks to Almighty God, for his manifold blessings and mercies; and whereas, the fourth Thursday in November has been by usage and custom, adopted by most of the States of the Union, as a day of Thanksgiving; and in order that said day may be observed with uniformity throughout the United States; Therefore,

I, Madison S. Perry, do by this my Public Proclamation, set aside Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November, as a day of Public Thanksgiving, and respectfully ask the clergy of all religious denominations, to open their houses of worship, and deliver addresses suited to such an occasion, and request the good people of the State to lay aside their usual avocations and join in the religious exercises of the day.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the [L. S.] great seal of the State of Florida. Done

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at the Capitol, in the city of Tallahassee, this third day of November, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

MADISON S. PERRY.

By the Governor—Attest,

F. L. VILLEPIGUE, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Isham G. Harris, Governor of the State of Tennessee.

To all the People of said State, greeting:

WHEREAS, It has pleased an All-wise Providence, to bestow upon our State peace, health, and prosperity, and to continue to us our civil and religious liberty, under those free institutions vouchsafed to us by the same power, and in conformity to a commendable usage among Christian nations, I, Isham G. Harris, Governor as aforesaid, do hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth instant, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise, and earnestly invoke the People throughout the State to observe it as such.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great Seal of the State to be affixed at the office in Nash-
[L. S.] ville, on the eighth day of November, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

ISHAM G. HARRIS.

By the Governor.

J. E. R. RAY, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By Hiland Hall, Governor of the State of Vermont.

Our New England ancestors were deeply imbued with a religious feeling of dependence upon an Overruling Providence. While they diligently pursued the means which labor and skill could furnish for the accomplishment of their lawful undertakings, they felt their best efforts to be vain unless aided and sanctioned by the divine favor. They were accordingly ever ready to give thanks and praise to their Heavenly Father for all their enjoyments. The productions of the earth were among the richest of their temporary blessings, and when these had been harvested and a sufficient supply for the ensuing year was found to have been gathered and secured, a peculiar occasion seemed to be furnished for the manifestation of gratitude to Him whose mercies had rendered the season propitious and crowned the labors of the husbandman with success. Hence the early custom of setting apart a day towards the close of each year for a public religious festival of Thanksgiving and Praise. This custom was adopted in this State on the first formation of

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its government and has been invariably followed to the present time, and is one well worthy to be perpetuated.

In accordance with this approved and revered custom, I do hereby appoint Thursday, the second day of December next, a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise throughout this State.

Ministers and people of every denomination are requested to suspend all unnecessary labor on that day, and in their respective places of worship, with a spirit of humility and gratitude becoming the occasion, to render thanks to God and proclaim his praises for all the mercies both temporal and spiritual, which he has hitherto been pleased to bestow upon us; especially for his great kindness to the people of this State in continuing to them a constitution of government which secures liberty and equality of rights, and freedom of faith and opinion to all; for the abundance of the fruits of the earth with which the labors of the husbandman have been rewarded, and the general measure of health and prosperity that have attended us the past season; for the means with which we are favored of obtaining and profiting by intellectual, moral, and religious instruction; for the many wonderful discoveries and inventions which the ingenuity of man is constantly permitted to make for bettering the physical and social condition of our race, by increasing the

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comforts and conveniences of life and rendering them more easily attainable, by constructing pathways through the atmosphere and along the depths of the ocean for the transmission of knowledge with lightning speed from one country to another, bringing the nations of the earth into nearer and more kindly contact, and promising eventually, by encircling them all in one continuous chain, to bind them together in perpetual peace and harmony—and finally, for the Christian hope, which is vouchsafed to us of a blessed immortality.

And while in the celebration of this time honored festival we are assembled around the family board, exchanging our mirthful congratulations with kindred and friends, over bountiful repasts, let our hearts be expanded with enlarged benevolence towards those to whom the favors of Providence may have been dispensed with a more sparing hand. Let our enjoyments be enhanced by the reflection that the sons and daughters of want and suffering have not been forgotten by us, but have been sought out and cared for. So shall the day be made one of joy and gladness to all—a heartfelt Thanksgiving throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Given under my hand and the seal of this State, in the Executive Chamber, at Montpelier, this eight day of November,

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in the year of our Lord one thousand
[L. S.] eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States, the eighty-third.

HILAND HALL.

By the Governor.

WILBUR P. DAVIS, Secretary
of Civil and Military Affairs.

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PROCLAMATION

By Peter F. Causey, Governor of the State of Delaware.

DELAWARE, ss. In the name and by the authority of the State of Delaware, Peter F. Causey, Governor of the said State:

FELLOW CITIZENS:

It is but a just tribute of a grateful people to offer thanks to an Almighty Providence for the many and signal blessings which have been extended to them and for the watchful care which has guarded and protected them as a nation.

Our people and nation are among the most favored of the earth, in many respects we are the "peculiar people" of God's Providence; liberty in its best and truest sense is the inheritance of every citizen, and our growth and progress are without a parallel in the history of the world; flourishing towns and villages now stand where but a short time since the wilderness held undisputed sway; and the noise of machinery and the hum of industry have displaced the silence of the forest—older nations are astonished at our rapid advancement and we are already recognized and respected as one of the most important powers of the earth.

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Amid the blessings which have so signally marked the progress of our common country, our own State has received her share; pestilence and famine are unknown within her borders; a bountiful return repays the labor of the husbandman; our people are contented, prosperous and happy. In view of these blessings, and in conformity with established usage and the wishes of many citizens,

I, Peter F. Causey, Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby recommend Thursday, the twenty-fifth instant, as a day of General Thanksgiving and Praise throughout the State, and request the people, that, abstaining from all worldly occupations, they assemble in their respective places of worship, and give most humble and hearty thanks to Him who holds in his hand the destinies of nations as of individuals.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Delaware, at Dover, this ninth day of November, in the year of [L. s.] our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and of the Independence of the said State, the eighty-third.

P. F. CAUSEY.

By the Governor.

J. R. LOFLAND, Secretary of State.

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PROCLAMATION

By William A. Richardson, Governor of the Territory of Nebraska.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Omaha, N. T., Nov. 10, 1858.

I, William A. Richardson, Governor of the Territory of Nebraska, issue this my Proclamation, setting apart Saturday, the fourth day of December, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, as a day of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the manifold blessings which, in his great goodness and mercy, he has bestowed upon this people.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the [L. S.] great seal of the Territory.

WM. A. RICHARDSON.

By the Governor.

J. STERLING MORTON, Secretary of Nebraska.

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PROCLAMATION

By Thomas Bragg, Governor of the State of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, by an act of the General Assembly it is made the duty of the Governor of the State for the time being, "to set apart a day in every year, and to give notice thereof by Proclamation, as a day of solemn and Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God for past blessings, and of supplication for his continual kindness and care over us, as a State and as a Nation."*

Now, therefore, I do, by this my Proclamation, appoint and set apart Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, as such day, and do most respectfully and earnestly recommend that it be observed accordingly by all the good people of this State.

Given under my hand, and attested by the great seal of the State. Done at the
[L. s.] city of Raleigh, this, the fourth day of November, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

THOMAS BRAGG.

By the Governor.

PULASKI COWPER, Pr. Secretary.

* Passed in 1848. Revised Code, ch. 53, sec. 23, p. 315.

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PROCLAMATION

By James G. Berret, Mayor of Washington City, D. C.*

THE City Council having by a joint resolution, appointed Thursday, the twenty-fifth instant, as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, I have approved of the act, and deem it my duty to give an official announcement of the same by this, my Proclamation. The observance of a day of Thanksgiving at this season of the year is sanctioned by time-honored custom, and is peculiarly becoming a Christian community. The blessings which are continually vouchsafed to us demand that we should occasionally turn aside from our daily avocations, and as it were, sanctify a secular day by

*Joint Resolution appointing a day of Public Thanksgiving:

"Whereas, It is becoming "in a favored people to re- "turn thanks to the Giver "of All Good for the mani- "fold blessings he vouch- "safes them as a communi- "ty; and whereas, the city "of Washington has hereto- "fore united with many of "the States of the Union in "this public expression of "devout and grateful hearts "with peculiar acceptance "by her citizens. Therefore

"Resolved, by the Board "of Aldermen and Board of "Common Council of the city "of Washington, That the "Mayor is hereby requested

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united and heartfelt manifestations of gratitude, by prayerful reflection, and by contrite supplication.

In order to give due effect and solemnity to the occasion, every good citizen is invoked to contribute something of example and precept toward the fulfillment of the duties which properly belong to the day; and to this end I recommend that the ordinary pursuits of business be suspended, and that all denominations assemble in their respective places of worship to render thanks to Almighty God for his boundless mercies, and to offer up supplications for a continuance of our civic and our national prosperity.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, this thirteenth day of November,
[L. S.] in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

JAMES G. BERRET.

"to set apart, by Public Proclamation, Thursday, the twenty-fifth instant, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, inviting all the inhabitants of the city to abstain from their usual secular employments, and the reverend clergy to unite in such manner as they may deem most appropriate in giving expression to the gratitude of the people.

"Resolved, That the keepers of taverns, restaurants and refectories, be requested to close their houses on said day, and that the Mayor be requested to direct the police officers to report the names of the keepers of all such houses who shall refuse to close them."

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INDEX.

		Page.
Alliston, Robert F. W., Gov'r of South Carolina,	1858,	165
Banks, Nathaniel P., Gov'r of Massachusetts,	1858,	159
Berret, Jas. G., Mayor of Washington, D. C.,	1858,	178
Bingham, Kinsley S., Governor of Michigan	1858,	142
Bissell, Wm. H., Governor of Illinois,	1858,	144
Bouck, Wm. C., Governor of New York,	1843,	96
do do do	1844,	98
Boudinot, Elias, President of Congress,	1783,	23
Bragg, Thomas, Governor of North Carolina,	1858,	177
Brown, Joseph E., Governor of Georgia,	1858,	161
Buckingham, Wm. A., Governor of Connecticut,	1858,	137
Causey, Peter F., Governor of Delaware,	1858,	174
Chase, Salmon P., Governor of Ohio,	1858,	163
Clark, Myron H., Governor of New York,	1855,	119
do do do	1856,	121
Clinton, De Witt, Governor of New York,	1817,	47
do do do	1818,	49
do do do	1819,	50
do do do	1820,	52
do do do	1821,	54
do do do	1822,	56
do do do	1825,	61
do do do	1826,	63
do do do	1827,	65
Clinton, George, Governor of New York,	1782,	20
Colden, Cadwallader,	1760,	2
Colonial Proclamation,	1760,	1

Digitized by Google

		Page.
Committee of States,	1784,	26
Congress, Continental, Proclamations by,	1777,	4
do do do	1778,	8
do do do	1779,	11
do do do	1780,	14
do do do	1781,	16
do do do	1782,	20
do do do	1783,	23
Congress, Resolutions of,	1815,	36
Conquest of Canada,	1760,	2
Dyer, Elisha, Governor of Rhode Island,	1858,	135
Fish, Hamilton, Governor of New York,	1849,	110
do do do	1850,	112
Haile, Wm., Governor of New Hampshire,	1858,	133
Hall, Hiland, Governor of Vermont,	1858,	170
Harris, Isham G., Governor of Tennessee,	1858,	169
Hicks, Thomas H., Governor of Maryland,	1858,	151
Hunt, Washington, Governor of New York,	1851,	114
do do do	1852,	115
Huntington, Samuel, President of Congress,	1779,	11
Jay, John, Governor of New York,	1795,	43
King, John A., Governor of New York,	1857,	124
do do do	1858,	126
Laurens, Henry, Letter to Governor Clinton,	1777,	7
Laurens, Henry, President of Congress,	1778,	8
Legislature of New York, upon the Peace of	1815,	41
Lowe, Ralph P., Governor of Iowa,	1858,	153
McKean, Thomas, President of Congress,	1781,	16
McWillie, Wm., Governor of Mississippi,	1858,	158
Madison, James, upon the Peace of	1815,	37
Marcy, Wm. L., Governor of New York,	1833,	78
do do do	1834,	80
do do do	1835,	81
do do do	1836,	83
do do do	1837,	84
do do do	1838,	86
Moore, Andrew B., Governor of Alabama,	1858,	128

Digitized by Google

		Page.
Morrill, Lott M., Governor of Maine,	1858,	131
National Thanksgivings,		30
Newell, Wm. A., Governor of New Jersey,	1858,	139
Packer, Wm. F., Governor of Pennsylvania,	1858,	147
Peace of 1815, President's Proclamation,		37
do Governor of New York,		41
Perry, Madison S., Governor of Florida,	1858,	167
Pitcher, Nathaniel, Lt. Governor of New York,	1828,	67
Randall, Alexander W., Governor of Wisconsin,	1858,	145
Revolutionary Proclamations,		4
Richardson, Wm. A., Governor of Nebraska,	1858,	176
Seward, Wm. H., Governor of New York,	1839,	88
do do do	1840,	90
do do do	1841,	93
do do do	1842,	94
Seymour, Horatio, Governor of New York,	1853,	117
do do do	1854,	118
Sibley, Henry H., Governor of Minnesota,	1858,	150
Stewart, Robert M., Governor of Missouri,	1858,	155
Tompkins, D. D., Gov'r of New York (Peace),	1815,	41
Throop, Enos T., Lt. Governor of New York,	1829,	69
do do Governor do	1830,	71
do do do	1831,	74
do do do	1832,	76
Washington, George, President,	1789,	30
do do do	1795,	33
Willard, Ashbel P., Governor of Indiana,	1858,	141
Wright, Silas, Governor of New York,	1845.	100
do do do	1846,	103
Yates, Joseph C., Governor of New York,	1823,	58
do do do	1824,	60
Young, John, Governor of New York,	1847,	106
do do do	1848,	108

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